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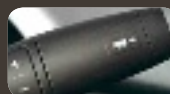
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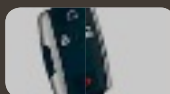
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**GAME OF THRONES:
THE PRIMER**
PAGE 26



Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, APRIL 10-12, 2015

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Playoff dreams alive and well

New York Rangers right wing Martin St. Louis battles for the puck against Ottawa Senators center Mika Zibanejad on Thursday night. The Sens continued their playoff push with a 3-0 victory. More coverage, page 30. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The bill for beauty

DUFFY TRIAL

Questions arise over who paid for makeup

The prime minister might have had his makeup done alongside Sen. Mike Duffy in 2010 on one of their many appearances together, but a government source says the taxpayer didn't pick up the tab for that type of service.

But, one month earlier, taxpayers did foot the bill for Stephen Harper's makeup artist to travel overseas for the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands.

The fact that Harper and Duffy employed the services of the same makeup artist surfaced in court earlier this week.

Duffy is facing 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery.

Defence lawyer Donald Bayne said Tuesday that Duffy had his makeup done for a G8/G20 national youth caucus event in

2010, and that Harper received the same service that day.

"The \$300 (contract) paid not only Sen. Duffy's perfectly standard makeup for television — it's always done — but Ms. Lambert made up the prime minister of Canada," Bayne said in court.

A government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "these services are not paid for by taxpayers."

In fact, the taxpayer has picked up bills in the past for another Harper stylist, and around the same time period. Michelle Muntean travelled around the world with Harper, applying makeup, styling hair, selecting clothing and trimming nails.

Duffy's payment of Lambert occurred through an unusual \$65,000 master contract that he had arranged with Gerald Donohue, a former broadcast friend.

Through that umbrella fund, Donohue's company paid out other service providers, including Lambert. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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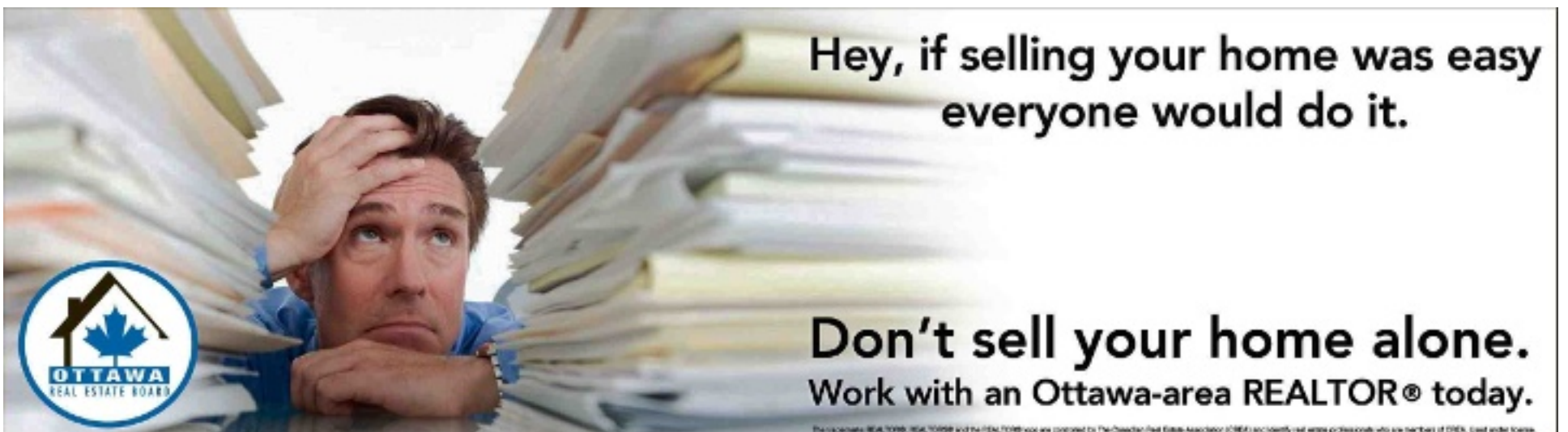
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War Memorial gets police watch

PROTECTION

Extra security comes after fatal shooting



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Maj. Michel Lavigne, commanding officer of the Ceremonial Guard, said Ottawa police were "proud" to protect sentries at the National War Memorial after last October's deadly shooting and welcomed them again Thursday for another show of service.

Under an unprecedented agreement, the Department of National Defence is paying Ottawa police to have two armed, uniformed city police officers watch over the ceremonial guards until mid-November. The contract, paid in full by DND, will cost an estimated \$425,000.

"Many of them are former military police officers or have served in the military. So for them it has significance as well," said Lavigne. Their presence will also add a heightened degree of security against vandals and members of the public who cause minor disturbances.

According to duty logs obtained by CBC News, sentries have been subjected to verbal abuse, loud drunks, and vandals. Pierre Poilievre, MP for Nepean-Carleton and Minister of Employment and Social Development, said such abuse will not be tolerated.

"I think if there is anybody who abuses or mistreats either the monument or the guards they are carrying out the most despicable deed and we should do our best to find them and if possible prosecute them."



Ottawa Police Const. Santiago De Los Santos watches over sentries guarding the National War Memorial in Ottawa as the sentries return to their post for their first day, on Thursday. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 UNIDENTIFIED SOLDIER

In 2000, remains of an unidentified Canadian soldier were repatriated from France and buried in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

2 CEREMONIAL GUARDS

The Canadian Armed Forces added ceremonial guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the months of July and August since 2007. It has since expanded and now runs April 9 to Nov. 11 and on special occasions.

4 SENTRY UNIFORM

Each sentry wears a ceremonial uniform and carries a C7A2 rifle, which includes a bayonette as they stand guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They do not carry live ammunition while on duty and are there for ceremonial purposes only.

5 TAKING PHOTOS

Ceremonial guards are not permitted to speak while performing their duties, although members of the public are allowed to take photos of them. There is always a third soldier present known as a posting guard, who is free to interact with the public and can answer questions.

6 STANDING ON GUARD

Sentries stand on guard for one hour at a time until the next rotation from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. They can relax at a nearby rest-easy location in their between shifts. During inclement weather, their shifts can be shortened to 30 minutes at a time.

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Feds defend drug site rules

SUPERVISED INJECTIONS

Mayor, police chief against drug house, says Poilievre

Steve Collins
Metro | Ottawa

Employment Minister Pierre Poilievre this week defended new restrictions on the opening of supervised injection sites in his government's Bill C-2, The Respect for Communities Act.

"Our view is that dangerous and addictive drugs tear families apart. They promote criminal behaviour and they destroy lives," Poilievre told Metro. "That is why we fought drug injection sites all the way to the Supreme Court."

Bill C-2, drafted after the court overturned government attempts to shut down Vancouver's Insite facility, passed its third reading in the House of Commons last month and is currently before the Senate.

Critics say its requirements,

including obtaining a letter from the local chief of police and criminal background checks for all employees, are designed as hurdles to make it harder to open an injection site.

"I don't want to predetermine the outcome," he said. "I will say that we are listening to the police chief and the mayor, both of whom are against a drug injection site in the City of Ottawa."



Our priority should be to get people off drugs.

Pierre Poilievre, federal employment minister

Studies of Insite have overwhelmingly found it cut down on overdose deaths, reduced the spread of infectious disease and got users into treatment.

"The minister will take all that into consideration," Poilievre said. "At the same time, I think that we can't have blindly ideological sup-



A look inside Vancouver's Insite supervised injection facility. JEFF HODSON/METRO

port for more drug injection houses across Canada."

In the end, he said, it comes down to priorities, and his are "to see the scarce drug treatment dollars available go to

prevention and treatment."

"That's why I helped to secure a million dollars in federal money to help with the Ottawa drug treatment strategy, and I support Harvest

House, which helps young men in the south end of Ottawa get off drugs and into good jobs. These programs work. Our priority should be to get people off drugs."

+ VANCOUVER

The Insite experience

Vancouver's Insite, the only supervised injection site in North America, has been operating for 12 years and Metro Vancouver senior reporter Matt Kielyka has covered its story for 10.

Insite's record:

"I think they're closing in on 2 million injections and there hasn't been a single overdose death at the facility. That speaks volumes for whether it actually works."

The federal government's attempt to close it:

"We were seeing a lot of commentary coming from the other side basically attacking the researchers, saying they were biased, they had vested interests... So it got quite bitter."

The future after Bill C-2:

"That's a tough one. Everyone kind of feels that this is maybe the end of supervised injection sites. Insite will continue. They just got their Health Canada exception last month for the next year, but there's uncertainty and doubts about what happens after that."

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Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

SOCIAL SERVICES

Family violence in the spotlight at U of Ottawa conference

An upcoming conference in Ottawa will shed light on how victims of family violence can break past cultural barriers and stigma they sometimes face and seek support from local social services.

The Impact of Family Violence Conference: Continuing the Conversation with South Asian and Diverse Communities will be held at the Univer-

sity of Ottawa on May 13 to 14.

Dr. Naila Butt, executive director of Social Services Network, which is hosting the conference, said although the title mentions the South Asian community, family violence can happen in any culture.

"There is stigma and shame in reaching out, so basically that is why SSN started this collaboration with police servi-

ces because that was an issue," she said.

"Every time there would be a 911 call police would go and women would change their story."

Deputy police chief Jill Skinner said the conference can raise awareness about victim support services, including the Ottawa Police Service.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

+ BACKGROUND

Family violence from an Ottawa police perspective

5,901 – The number of calls for service in 2014 that were classified as domestic violence.

2,894 – The number of those cases where it was deemed there was evidence of violence or a threat of violence to warrant a follow-up investigation.

Crowded jails assailed

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Group argues conditions at OCDC are inhumane

Nicholas Hodge
Metro | Ottawa

Crowded cells and outdated facilities at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre (OCDC) can create a dangerous environment for both corrections officers and prisoners, according to activists and a union leader.

A forum meant to discuss problems at the detention centre organized by the Criminalization and Punishment Education Project (CPEP) will be held Wednesday at City Hall.

CPEP is a group of students and professors from Ottawa universities and community members that believe the conditions at the Innes Road correctional facility are inhumane.

"The biggest problem is overcrowding, it's been severely overcrowded for decades," said Laura McKendy, a PHD student at Carleton University.

"Cells made for two people routinely have up to four people in them."

The tight quarters can create tension between prisoners and unsanitary conditions.

According to Denis Collin, a corrections officer and OCDC's Ontario Public Service Employees Union president, the detention centre is around capacity most of the time but the situation becomes more critical on weekends with an influx of prisoners serving their sentences then.

Collin said that the OCDC is under-staffed, the facilities are outdated and there are not enough training opportunities for corrections officers.

The amount of people on remand in Ontario has tripled in the last 30 years despite a decrease in crime rates. People on remand have been charged and are waiting for their trial. A lot of Canadian cities have separate remand detention facilities.

This is a major reason why prisons can become crowded according to Aaron Doyle, a sociology and criminology professor at Carleton.

"Ontario is one of the places in Canada where it's most difficult to get bail and people are most likely to get bail breached on a technicality," said Doyle.

CPEP hopes that public events like Wednesday's forum will encourage the province to improve the OCDC, a facility they say one former prisoner referred to as "an anger factory," safer.

"The problems at OCDC are hidden away behind jail walls but they are problems we are all responsible for," said Doyle.

UPDATES

Correction

In a story published on April 9 Kat Paradis-Blais was referred to as a "trained paramedic."

She's an emergency med-

ical dispatcher

She was also turning right in the intersection when she was rear-ended — not left.

Metro regrets the error.

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City council considering paid parking option

WARD ISSUE

Community consultation scheduled for May 2



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Park for free while you still can — one of the last commercial streets in the city with free parking spaces is considering implementing paid meters.

Kitchissippi Coun. Jeff Leiper said he'd like to look at parking in both Westboro and Wellington West as a ward-wide issue.

"My interest in this is not from the perspective of the revenue. When I got elected I heard from people that parking was an issue and I'm interested in this consultation as a way to find out if

we have a problem," he said.

The two neighbourhoods are some of the last shopping districts in the city with free parking.

Other busy commercial areas in the city like Bank Street and Somerset Street have paid meters.

In 2011 the city surveyed the area and decided that paid parking wasn't necessary, but the demographics have changed.

Leiper said he's not necessarily sold on bringing in paid parking to the area, but is open to considering all the options if residents decide it's a concern.

"There are people who are concerned that there isn't



A lot of our shoppers get here by foot, by bike and by bus, so I'm not sure they're going to be able to show a clear need for it.

Zachary Dayler

enough parking available. Paid parking is considered by some people as a solution because it creates availability and turnover," he said.

Leiper said some people like the free parking, while others have been reaching out to him on social media to suggest making the neighbourhood more bike friendly.

Paid parking may also encourage drivers to go down residential side streets in search of free parking, which is likely to be a concern among community associations.

"I'm approaching this with a completely open mind," he said, adding that no decisions will be made before a community consultation organized for May 2.

Wellington West executive director Zachary Dayler said he's currently polling local businesses to get their view on the proposed changes.

"The BIA didn't go (to) the city and say let's talk about paid parking, but from our end we recognize paid parking as a planning tool. But is there actually a need for it? A lot of our shoppers get here by foot, by bike and by bus, so I'm not sure they're going to be able to show a clear need for it," he said.

Dayler said increased enforcement of time restrictions on parking might be another solution, since some businesses are frustrated with low turnover but like that free parking attracts customers.



I'm approaching this with a completely open mind.

Jeff Leiper

A parking pay station could be coming soon. CONTRIBUTED

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Premier has 'grave' concerns about new prostitution law

A review by Ontario's attorney general may have concluded that Canada's new prostitution law is constitutional, but it hasn't "entirely" alleviated Premier Kathleen Wynne's concerns about how it affects sex-trade workers.

After the federal law came into effect in December, the premier said she had a "grave concern" that it would not make sex workers safer and asked the attorney general to do a constitutional review.

Senior staff in the attorney general's office found no clear unconstitutionality with the law, though Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur would not divulge the reasoning.

When asked Thursday to elaborate, Wynne said the review did "not entirely" alleviate her concerns about the law.

"There's no clear unconstitutionality and so obviously we understand that we need to uphold the law," she said. "At the same time, we are going

to be monitoring the impact of the law."

The sweeping new changes to the way prostitution is regulated in Canada follow a Supreme Court decision that found the old laws violated the rights of sex-trade workers. The high court said that bans on brothels, living on the avails of prostitution and communicating for the purposes of prostitution put sex workers in harm's way.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mental health facility gets grant

It's time we start paying attention to Canada's top mental health care researchers.

That's the message from the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre Thursday after the facility announced a \$1-million research grant to lure the country's top doctors in the field.

The Mach-Gaensslen Foundation of Canada is providing the funds over 10 years — or \$100,000 a year to the winning mental health care research project. A panel of expert judges will select the winner. The "undirected" funds are meant to help Canadians showing "significant promise" in their

research and encourage more doctors to enter this field, said Dr. Chris Carruthers, chair of the Mach-Gaensslen Foundation, which gives grants to medical research.

"The end game is mental health is more prominent on the radar," he said.

Dr. Zul Merali, the president and CEO of the Royal's Institute of Mental Health Research, said mental health researchers should be held in high esteem, like athletes or celebrities.

"These are our finest players in mental health research. We need to recognize them," he said.

George Weber, president and CEO of the Royal, said it's the "most under-funded area in health care."

With initiatives like the Bell Let's Talk Day, more people are becoming more aware of mental health issues, but the health care side needs to catch up to demand, he said.

"People are coming out of the shadows and seeking care and seeking help, which is a good thing," he said. "It's just that we're kind of overwhelmed."

The competition is now open and the application deadline for 2015 is July 15.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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Forget a midwife, call the councillor

HEALTH

Councillor helps with home birth of granddaughter



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

City councillor. Political assistant. Legislative aide. Midwife?

An Ottawa councillor may be able to add that last title to her resume after rushing to the home birth of her granddaughter Wednesday night.

Catherine McKenney said she was already on call to care for her pregnant daughter's 16-month-old. When the phone rang at 11:42 p.m., she said she could "hear the panic" in her son-in-law's voice. She hopped on her bike and sped up Somerset Street.

"It was probably the quickest I've ever gone up," she said.

McKenney knew her daughter would not make it to the hospital in time.

They dialled 9-1-1 and, as McKenney stepped outside to flag down the paramedic, her new baby granddaughter was born.

Mya is a healthy 8 lbs 1 oz. Mom is doing fine, too.

As for McKenney, she slept only about an hour, but still attended a day of councillor duties Thursday.



An Ottawa paramedic holds Mya, the new granddaughter of Coun. Catherine McKenney, who helped out when Mya was unexpectedly born at home Wednesday evening. TWITTER

LGBTQ

Ottawa to hold first queer and trans family planning program



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Starting a family is a huge decision for most couples, but it's even more complicated when you mix in sperm donors, egg donors and surrogates.

Planned Parenthood Ottawa is working to make that process a little easier this weekend by holding Ottawa's first queer and trans family planning workshop.

"Here in town a lot of people have found their medical service providers and their professional team through word of mouth, which, depending on how connected you are into the community, might be easier or harder," said Luna Allison, a coordinator with Planned Parenthood.

The workshop costs \$125 per person and is being run by two visiting organizations from Toronto, the LGBTQ Parenting Network and The 519

Church Street Community Centre.

They've been holding workshops for over 20 years, but there's no similar program in Ottawa.

Family Services of Ottawa has a program called Around the Rainbow, but its mandate is to help existing families, not would-be parents.

When Ottawa playwright Lawrence Aronovitch and his husband wanted to have a child, they were lucky enough to be able to find a surrogate and donor through friends.

"One prime resource for us was the lawyer who helped us to draft an agreement between ourselves, the egg donor and the surrogate," he said.

From there the couple used the Ottawa Fertility Centre for medical fertility services.

Aronovitch said sometimes it showed that the system isn't

set up with gay couples in mind.

When he went online to set up a birth certificate, the form required a mother's name.

Still, he said the human face of care was always welcoming.

"Maybe we're fortunate to live in a city where we, at least, have not encountered that many raised eyebrows about it. We're seen nothing but support," he said.

Allison said visiting facilitators will be staying a few extra days to train people in Ottawa who can expand the program locally if there's enough demand.

"People have written us to express their gratitude that something like this is finally happening in Ottawa," she said.

"The project will unfold as knowledge of it spreads."



We, at least, have not encountered that many raised eyebrows about [having a child].
Playwright Lawrence Aronovitch

IT TAKES A TEAM FOR LGBTQ PARENTS

There are a lot of options to consider for LGBTQ parents who don't have all the parts themselves to make a baby.

Adoption, surrogacy, sperm donors, egg donors — it takes a whole team to make things work.

The first step couples have to take is to sit down with a lawyer and draft out

who has parental rights.

That also means making a decision about whether donors or surrogates will have a role in parenting.

Everyone knows that having a child is expensive. For LGBTQ couples (and infertile couples) the costs of medical bills, legal fees and supporting a surrogate can add

up quickly.

In Canada parents are not allowed to pay for surrogacy services, sperm or egg donation.

It can be difficult, but not impossible, to find someone willing to carry a baby for nine months out of the goodness of their heart.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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DAYCARE

New childcare subsidies could hurt some parents: Councillor

Ottawa parents could soon have more subsidized daycare choices under a city plan, but at least one councillor is worried some providers will be left in a lurch.

City officials say the 2015 Child Care Service Plan will stabilize child care fees, cut wait times and give parents "floating subsidies" that will allow them to choose daycares.

Currently, Ottawa has 6,470 subsidized daycare spaces and 3,242 children on the wait list and approved for subsidies.

This city plan is in line with new provincial guidelines set out in 2012.

Aaron Burry, the city's general manager of community and social services, repeatedly

We have multiple different legislations.
Aaron Burry, City of Ottawa

described Ottawa's current daycare system as "complicated."

"We have multiple different legislations since the early '80s. We have one of the oldest childcare systems in Ontario," he said.

"Those agencies who came in earlier versus later got different legislation, different amounts of funding."

But Somerset Coun. Catherine McKenney said she's

worried floating subsidies will create daycare voids in some neighbourhoods and ultimately force not-for-profit facilities to close.

"It's finding that balance where you're not just gearing all of your changes to what's best and easiest for parents," she said. "Because in the end, those very parents could end up losing out, if you don't have child care in the area where you need it."

The city is also looking to redirect \$11.5 million to help those providers under the changes.

The 2015 Child Care Service Plan will go to the Community and Protective Services Committee for consideration on April 16. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

JOIN THE FIGHT

SUPPORT CANADIANS
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**VOLUNTEER
THIS APRIL**



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Société
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This April when you volunteer a few hours of your time to sell daffodils, you're supporting Canadians living with cancer and helping us fund research to fight all cancers for all Canadians in all communities.

Get involved. Volunteer. Go to www.ottawa.mycsschedule.ca

When loved ones are diagnosed with or pass away from cancer, we often want to do something to help or honour them. This April, the Canadian Cancer Society wants the citizens of Ottawa to know that there is something you can do.

Volunteers are needed during the weekends of April 10th-12th and April 17th-19th at various store locations across the city of Ottawa. Shifts are only 2 to 3 hours in length and we require two volunteers at every shift, so please encourage your friends and family to sign up and volunteer with you! By volunteering just a few hours

of your time you can help save lives and show your support for Canadians living with cancer.

Students that complete at least one volunteer shift not only complete community service hours for school but will also be entered into a draw to win an iPad!

"Volunteering during Daffodil Month is an incredibly rewarding experience, whether you have been touched by cancer or not," says Paul Newcombe a four year Daffodil volunteer. "It brings out the best in people and creates a great sense of

community, knowing we can all fight back against cancer together."

Money raised through Daffodil Month helps fund life-saving cancer research and provide vital programs and support services to Canadians who are touched by the disease. It also drives prevention and advocacy work which is critical to reaching our vision where no Canadian fears cancer.

Please note that fresh cut daffodils and potted daffodils will be sold at participating Loblaw, Real Canadian Superstore, and Your Independent Grocer stores from April 9th-23rd. Two dollars from each sale will be donated to the Canadian Cancer Society.

To sign up for a volunteer shift, please visit ottawa.mycsschedule.ca
or call Alison at 613-723-1744 ext 3625 for more information!

Beach jam is on at former jail

BACKSTAGE PASS

Grab your surfboard for '50s-themed dance party



Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

A group of music fans in Ottawa have figured out the secret behind beating this epic winter that seriously won't go away.

Think Hawaiian shirts, polka-dot dresses and snug sandals — the required attire for a '50s rock 'n' roll dance party. Matt Tamblyn's King of the Beach party this Friday night is proof that not all DJ dance parties have to be laced with the mind-numbing thump-thump bass that you hear on virtually every mainstream dance floor from here to Ibiza.

"It's doo-wop, bubble gum and rock. Anything from the '50s — the juke joint stuff," says Tamblyn, an Ottawa-based DJ and promoter.

"Winter wasn't going away and we said, 'How can

we lighten this up and have summer in our minds?'"

What came out of those slowly thawing brains was a beach party at Ottawa's old jail-turned-bar, Mugshots. It's a costumed dance party with two DJs spinning up classic surf rock, garage and rockabilly.

And DJs Lamb Rabbit and Gremmy won't be trapped behind laptops and beat machines all night pushing buttons, but will throw it down old school with a full vinyl set (those big round black things called records, kids). "This is more like what it would have been like at that time," adds Tamblyn.

"There isn't much of this stuff going on right now in Ottawa."

But people are starting to notice. Tamblyn packed Mugshots for an event last month and is expecting more than 150 people to fill the small bar on Nicholas Street.

Part of what makes this event so special is the fact that everyone buys in. Revellers show up dressed like characters from *Mad Men* and get into similar shenanigans inside the bar.

The partiers don't just dress up, they time warp



Ottawa DJ Matt Tamblyn (a.k.a. Ski Sheik) drops tunes at Ottawa's jail bar Mugshots during a the Arboretum Festival after party last year. His King of the Beach party takes place this Friday night at Mugshots. MELIK BENKRITLY / FOR METRO

onto the dance floor — a beach-themed paradise surrounded by inflatable palm trees and surf videos projecting onto the cell walls

— as hundreds of partygoers donning velvet dresses, bouclé knitted suits and suspenders bop, twist and jive to the classic juke gems.

Tickets are a ridiculous \$4 and it's a buck cheaper if you dress up.

Even if there is still snow outside, it doesn't mean we

can't go to the beach.

Grab your surf board and meet me at the jail. I'm in cell 14, the one with the sand. See you at 10 p.m.

FILM

Award to honour Rob Thompson

The legacy of an Ontario filmmaker who vanished in May 2013 will be honoured at the Ottawa Independent Video Awards on Saturday.

The SAW Video Media Art Centre will present The Rob Thompson Award to someone that has provided mentorship for others in Ottawa's

independent video community. Thompson, who ran SAW's youth program and lived in Killaloe Ont., went missing at the age of 56 after last being seen near his home.

Ottawa filmmakers Izabel Barsive and Ed Kucerak have been nominated for the award.

NICHOLAS HODGE / FOR METRO



Chris Mills, executive chef at Joey in Lansdowne Park.

LUCY SCHOLEY / FOR METRO

FOOD

New burger joint for Redblacks fans

Football fans will soon have another restaurant choice post-Redblacks games.

The latest at Lansdowne Park is Joey, a chain that serves up "casual dining with a modern twist," according to executive chef Chris Mills.

A hand-pressed burger, signature sushi cone and home-

made ice cream are on the menu, while cocktails will be served up at the bar.

The restaurant officially opens on April 11 at 5 p.m. After that, it will be open for lunch and dinner from Monday to Friday. The restaurant has employs 150 people.

LUCY SCHOLEY / FOR METRO

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INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

Canada sixth on Social Progress Index

Canada continues to rank near the top of the world in a measure of social advancement that hopes to displace simple economic wealth — or gross domestic product — as the yardstick for national success.

The Social Progress Index, which is headed by Harvard Business School professor Michael Porter, delivered its third annual report Wednesday evening, ranking 133 countries on a basket of 52 different indicators.

Canada came in sixth overall as the most socially advanced country in the world — but was ranked first globally for offering its citizens what the study broadly terms “opportunity,” a group of indicators that include rights, freedoms, tolerance, and access to higher education.

“Canada’s ranking as the world’s sixth most socially progressive nation is testament to a strong performance across the board, with stand-out results for

inclusion, thanks particularly to a high tolerance for religious minorities and immigrants,” Michael Green, the executive director of the non-profit Social Progress Imperative, said in a release.

High Canadian adult literacy rates and a very low homicide rate were also points of note.

Norway, the small Nordic country whose vast sovereign wealth fund built on oil and gas revenues has been frequently

contrasted in recent months to Alberta, was ranked as the world’s most socially advanced nation, followed by Sweden, Switzerland, Iceland and New Zealand to round out the top five.

Two areas in which Canada does not excel are “ecosystem sustainability” — rated 48th among 133 countries — and “access to information and communication” — where Canada placed 25th. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Thirteen puppies in training to be police dogs now have names beginning with H. THE CANADIAN PRESS/RCMP HANDOUT

Police dogs-in-training get names

LAW ENFORCEMENT

More than 21,000 names submitted by public

Thirteen puppies in training to be police dogs now have names.

There were more than 21,000 entries from across Canada to this year’s RCMP Name the Puppy contest.

Because of the unprecedented response, Inspector Andre Lemyre, who is in charge of police dog services, chose 13 winners representing every province and territory in Canada, not just 10 as originally planned.

All names had to start with the letter H and for multiple entries of the same name, winners were selected at random.

The 13 winners will each receive a certificate, a laminated photo of the puppy they named, a plush German Shepherd toy dog named Justice and an RCMP cap.

“Everyone at the centre was blown away by not only the

number, but also the creativity of all the entries,” said Lemyre.

“Congratulations to the 13 winners and my sincere thanks to every boy and girl who suggested a name.”

RCMP police service dog teams search for missing or lost people, track and apprehend criminals, remove illicit drugs from the streets, detect explosives and search for and recover evidence used in crimes.

“

Everyone at the centre was blown away by not only the number, but also the creativity of all the entries.

RCMP Inspector
Andre Lemyre

The Police Dog Service Training Centre is the national training centre in Canada for all RCMP police dog teams.

Ninety-three per cent of the German Shepherds working as RCMP service dogs were

born at the centre as part of the RCMP Police Dog Breeding Program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ BACKGROUND

The winning names are
Haley, Hammer, Hannah, Haven, Hawk, Herc, Hero, Hector, Hitch, Hooper, Hope, Hulk and Hunter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Researchers develop cancer antibody



Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Researchers at the University of B.C. have developed an antibody that can slow the ability of aggressive tumours to grow and spread to different parts of the body.

Early testing in mice shows the antibody has the ability to “knock down” aggressive tumour cells and their ability to migrate and spread to other parts of the body, said Dr. Kelly McNagny of UBC’s Biomedical Research Centre.

“It’s all looking great,” McNagny said. “It’s human cells in a mouse model, but we’re excited about the idea of now developing more antibodies that we could start using to treat patients.”

Developed in collaboration with the Centre for Drug Research and Development, the antibody works by targeting podocalyxin, a protein marker found in many highly aggressive tumours. Podocalyxin is associated with about five per cent of breast cancers, most ovarian



We’re excited about the idea of now developing more antibodies that we could start using to treat patients.

Dr. Kelly McNagny of UBC’s Biomedical Research Centre

cancers and some types of colon, renal and bladder cancers. Earlier studies on the protein marker have shown that its presence in tumours is linked to low survival rates.

McNagny and his team discovered that inhibiting podocalyxin dramatically slowed the growth and metastasis of aggressive tumours in mice. The antibody works by binding to podocalyxin and blocking its function, he said.

“That’s why we’re excited about it,” he said. “It seems to get rid of the cells that are residual and that move around to set up shop in other places.”

SASKATCHEWAN

‘Considerable force’ used in boy’s death

A medical expert says a six-year-old boy who was beaten to death by an older child on a Saskatchewan reserve had injuries similar to those seen in high-speed car crashes or a 10-metre fall.

Dr. Shaun Ladham testified Thursday at a coroner’s inquest into the death of Lee Bonneau, who was found with head injuries in a wooded area on the Kahkewistahaw reserve in 2013.

Ladham, a forensic pathologist, said the cause of Lee’s death was blunt force trauma to the head causing multiple skull fractures. “That does not happen easily,” he said, adding that “considerable force” was used.

Saskatchewan’s children’s advocate determined that the 10-year-old boy who killed Lee had behavioural issues and probably should not have been in the community unsupervised. Because he was under 12, he could



UNDERSTAFFED

Under questioning from coroner’s council, Ward acknowledged her office was dealing with a heavy case load at the time and needed more staff.

not be charged under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

The inquest also heard from Alicia Ward, the child protection worker in charge of Lee’s case. The child had been in the care of the Ministry of Social Services for less than three months when he died.

The inquest has heard there were concerns about domestic violence in Lee’s home, and the boy was taken into care after his mother told a social services worker she wanted to commit suicide. THE CANADIAN PRESS



MONTREAL STUDENTS PROTEST AUSTERITY MEASURES

A protester is blinded by pepper spray Thursday during a march against government austerity in Montreal. In scenes reminiscent of the 2012 civil unrest, students have barricaded themselves inside campus buildings, clashed with police and marched through the streets. But while protests three years ago focused on getting the government to reverse tuition fee hikes, this demonstration is protesting Premier Philippe Couillard’s cost-cutting — particularly health and education — to balance the provincial budget. “Austerity” is the protesters’ buzzword.

RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regulator exploring our digital progress

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CRTC launches major fact-finding mission

Canada’s telecom regulator is asking Internet users whether they’re getting enough speed — and enough bang for their buck.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has launched a major fact-finding process to assess whether Canada has the right telecommunications to be a world-class player in the digital economy.

It wants to know what services Canadians need to be digitally competitive, what kind of upload and download speeds are needed, whether there should be funding tools in place for

upgrading telecom equipment and how the industry players should be regulated.

The CRTC says it will gather information before holding public hearings on the issue a year from now.

The regulator says it also wants to find out what areas of the country are being underserved by digital technology.

Under current CRTC policies, Canadians in every region are expected to have access to a low-speed Internet connection, at a minimum.

But as more government and public services are moved online, the regulator said it’s concerned that not everyone will benefit from such things as digital banking, health and other services.

“As our habits change in this digital age, our telecommunications services must keep pace,”



CHANGES

Industry Minister James Moore was also expected to announce changes Friday to the licensing and equipment certification regime for radio, wireless and satellite companies.

CRTC chairman Jean-Pierre Blais said in a statement.

“Canadians are looking to the future, and the CRTC wants to ensure that the technology they depend on does so as well,” he said.

The CRTC also expressed concerns about the pressure being placed on existing services from new emerging technologies, such as so-called smart meters used by municipal and

provincial utilities to measure energy, water or natural gas consumption.

Those meters, like so many other things, require broadband access.

The consultations were announced in tandem with the release of a report on the Canadian satellite services market.

The report, prepared by CRTC commissioner Candice Molnar, found that communities dependent on satellites for Internet access rely almost exclusively on Telesat’s satellite network.

The CRTC said it will hold a separate public consultation to review Telesat’s current price ceiling, based on Molnar’s recommendations, to determine whether the ceiling is “still appropriate in light of current market conditions and future projections.” THE CANADIAN PRESS



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ISIL says group hacked French network TV5

PARIS

Prosecutor's office opens terrorism investigation

Hackers claiming allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) seized control of a global French television network, simultaneously blacking out 11 channels and taking over the network's website and social-media accounts. The attack appeared to be an unprecedented step in the extremist group's information-warfare tactics.

The hackers briefly cut transmission of 11 channels belonging to TV5 Monde and took over its websites and social-media accounts starting Wednesday night. The channel's director, Yves Bigot, said the attack continued into Thursday. He told RTL radio that the network has restored its signal but can only

broadcast recorded programs.

The Islamic extremist group has claimed complex hackings before, but experts and a French official said the ability to black out a global television network represented a new level of sophistication for the group. The Paris prosecutor's office said Thursday it has opened a terrorism investigation into the attack.

Bigot said he was shaken when he saw the black screen across the network's broadcasts "and when we discovered the sense of the message appearing on our social media and our websites, it both allowed us to understand what was happening and obviously worried us."

The message on the TV5 Monde website read in part "I am IS" with a banner by a group that called itself Cybercaliphate. It was replaced later Thursday by a simple message saying that it was undergoing maintenance.

Hackers claiming to work on behalf of ISIL have seized



TV5 employees work in Paris on Thursday after the French television network was hacked by people claiming allegiance to ISIL. CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

control of the Twitter accounts of other media, such as Newsweek, and in January they hacked into the Twitter page and YouTube site of the U.S. military's Central Command.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls, on his Twitter account, called the attack "an unacceptable insult to freedom of information and expression," and French

government ministers visited the channel's Paris headquarters Thursday.

TV5 Monde, which was founded by the French government in 1984 and calls itself the "worldwide French cultural channel," broadcasts news and other programs produced in France, Belgium, Switzerland and Canada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLICE BRUTALITY

Critics want abuse claims monitored

The fatal shooting of an unarmed black man fleeing from a police officer has stirred outrage around the nation, but people in the South Carolina city of North Charleston aren't surprised, calling it inevitable for a police department they believe focuses on petty crimes and fails to keep its officers in check.

There is almost nothing in Michael Thomas Slager's police personnel file to suggest that his bosses considered him a rogue officer capable of murdering a man he pulled over for a broken tail light. People in the community he served say this reflects what's

going wrong with policing today: officers nearly always get the last word when citizens complain.

The mostly black neighbourhood in North Charleston where Slager fired eight shots at the back of Walter Lamer Scott on Saturday is far from unique in this regard, said Melvin Tucker, a former FBI agent and police chief in four southern cities who often testifies in police misconduct cases.

Civil-rights leaders want North Charleston to create an independent citizens review board to review complaints against police.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

French protesters march in nationwide strikes

Thousands of protesters, many blowing whistles and waving union flags, marched through Paris and other French cities on Thursday in a day of nationwide strikes that kept many children out of school, forced the closure of the Eiffel Tower and cancelled some 2,000 flights in

and out of France.

Stepping up pressure on President Francois Hollande's already-unpopular Socialist government, the protesters aired an array of grievances against state funding cuts, planned increases in the retirement age and business-friendly reforms that could make firing workers easier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Couple sues sperm bank over donor info

GEORGIA

Canadians say U.S. firm did not tell them correct details

A U.S. sperm bank said Thursday it did not verify the personal information of a donor used by a Canadian couple who are now suing the company, alleging they were never told the man was a schizophrenic with a criminal record.

In an open letter, the president of Xytex Corp. said a careful review of its records had determined the Canadian couple's claims "do not reflect" the information the donor provided to the company.

"We stand by the process we followed and intend to vigorously defend ourselves against the allegations in this lawsuit," Kevin M. O'Brien said in the letter.

Port Hope, Ont., residents Angela Collins and Margaret Elizabeth Hanson allege that Xytex told them their choice of donor was a healthy man with multiple degrees who was "among their best donors."

In a statement of claim filed with a Georgia court, the couple alleges they only accidentally learned the identity of their donor — years after their son was born. Through their own research, they contend, they realized the donor, James Christopher Aggeles, was a college dropout who had been arrested for burglary at one point and had schizophrenia.

None of the allegations contained in the statement of claim have been proven in court.

The couple is now seeking damages for pain, suffering and financial losses as it alleges Xytex engaged in fraud, misrepresentation, negligence and battery, among other claims.

But Xytex claims it has done nothing wrong. The company

+ WHAT THEY SAID

The couple:

In their statement of claim, Ontario couple Angela Collins and Margaret Elizabeth Hanson say they learned through emails sent from Xytex in error that their sperm donor, James Christopher Aggeles, was schizophrenic, "held no degrees whatsoever," had been arrested for burglary and that his photos had been doctored to remove a large mole on his cheek.

The sperm bank:

The donor reported a "good health history" and stated in his application that he had no physical or medical impairments, Xytex president Kevin O'Brien said. The donor also provided the company with signed photos of himself and gave Xytex copies of his undergraduate and graduate university degrees, O'Brien said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

said it wanted to assure the public that claims it misled a client are "simply not true."

"We followed thorough procedures to review the health of the donor. As you may know, this vetting process eliminates 99 per cent of the potential donors who apply to Xytex," O'Brien explained in his letter.

"In this case, the donor underwent a standard medical exam and provided extensive personal and health information."

The suit states Aggeles appears to have fathered 36 children. Lawyer Nancy Hersh said she had at least 15 other clients who may be joining the lawsuit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GADGETS

Apple Watch ready for online orders

Buying an Apple Watch won't be as simple as walking into an Apple store and handing over your credit card.

The smartwatch comes in 54 configurations — more than any other Apple gadget. So starting Friday, Apple stores will have staff trained to help you choose. You'll then have to place your order for shipping starting April 24.

Prices range from \$349 US to \$17,000 US, depending on the watch case, band and size.

If you know the specific configuration you want, you're best off ordering it online, starting at 12:01 a.m. PDT Friday (3:01 a.m. EDT). There won't be an in-store pick-up option.

Besides the United States, the watch is available to customers in Australia, Canada,

China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan and the United Kingdom.

For the most part, watches will be available for viewing when stores open Friday, so many overseas stores will actually show the watch before orders are accepted.

Only some stores will carry the 18-karat gold luxury models known as Edition. When

you make the try-on reservation, you'll have to specify whether you're looking for these models or the cheaper ones. Specialists will handle these luxury appointments. If you're just interested in seeing them, all stores will have them for viewing in glass cases.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



IN BRIEF

Bell Media president out

The president of Canada's largest communications company abruptly left his post Thursday, two weeks after he admitted to trying to influence national news coverage. A corporate statement announcing the departure of Bell Media president Kevin Crull left little doubt of the link between his leaving and his interference in CTV's coverage of the broadcast regulator. Crull sparked widespread criticism last month for demanding CTV journalists not give any airtime to Jean-Pierre Blais, chairman of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

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NATURAL GAS: \$2.528 US (-9.1¢)
DOW JONES: 17,958.73 (+56.22)



Passengers in Atlanta look at flight cancellations during a winter storm, in this Feb. 25 photo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SMARTPHONES

Samsung bets on new S6 to end sales slump

When Samsung dubbed development of its latest smartphones "Project Zero," it was sounding a note of desperation as sales tumbled and it lost pole position in the crucial Chinese market to rivals Xiaomi and Apple.

The results of its overhaul, the flagship Galaxy S6 smartphone and the S6 Edge, go on sale in 20 countries on Friday. Samsung, which said "Project Zero" signified starting from scratch, is hoping a revamped

design, a more intuitive interface and less clutter will help claw back lost market share.

They are Samsung's first flagship products to hit shelves since its mobile business suffered a 40 per cent slump in earnings last year. It was the only top-five smartphone maker to sell fewer phones.

Pre-launch reviews praised Samsung's decision to ditch a plastic body and replace it with glass and metal for the new phones. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AIRLINES

Flight delays surged in U.S.

There was a surge in long tarmac delays at American airports in February, including several during a snow storm in Dallas.

The U.S. Department of Transportation said Thursday that 16 domestic flights were stuck on the ground for more than three hours and eight international flights were delayed more than four hours in February. Federal rules prohibit airlines from holding planes on the tarmac that long, and the department could issue fines.

Eleven of the long delays were American Airlines or American Eagle flights to or from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport during a Feb. 27 snow storm, the government said.

Overall, 72.8 per cent of flights arrived on time in February, down from 76.8 per cent in January but up from 70.7 per cent the previous February.

Among the 14 airlines that carry enough traffic to report figures to the government, Alaska Airlines had the best

on-time rating at 85.1 per cent.

Envoy Air, which operates many American Eagle flights, had the worst rating at 53.3 per cent. The government said 44 Envoy flights were late at least half the time in both January and February, far more than any other carrier. Frontier Airlines and JetBlue Airways had the next-worst on-time ratings, both under 60 per cent.

The government counts a flight on-time if it arrives within 14 minutes of schedule.

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THE KOHLER REPORT

Rebecca Kohler



Hi, my name is Rebecca and I'm an iAddict. This is a hard day for me because it's the day the Apple Watch goes on pre-order. I must stay strong.

The idea of the Apple Watch gives me a nervous breakdown. I already have a MacBook, an iPod, an iPhone and an iPad — this is not a humble brag, it's more a humiliating admission.

When the iPad came out, I felt like Goldilocks: "My laptop is too big and my iPhone is too small, but that iPad looks juuuusst right."

And now, Apple is releasing a watch that tells time, checks emails, takes calls and makes the Casio calculator watch I had in Grade 3 look like a joke.

Can I resist? And if I don't, what will happen to my social skills? What will happen to my credit card? And what will happen to my brain?

Sometimes I come home tired, wanting to relax. I'll sit on the couch and start scrolling through Netflix (ahem, on my Apple TV), then I'll hear my phone buzz. As I try to ignore that, I'll hear the bleep of a Facebook message coming through my computer, then the ding of a text, and the chime of an email.

You know the feeling, right? It's both intriguing and exhausting, like "I wonder who that is" mixed with "who the hell is that?"

You try to hold out, ignore them, but as you watch that old Friends episode, the buzzes and the beeps and the chimes gnaw at the back of your thoughts like a rat whose teeth resemble the end

of a USB cord. Finally, you give in and you check the messages, often to find they're disappointing or stressful. "Oh, an ad for a vagina enlargement." Or "great, a friendly reminder from my accountant that it's tax season."

If I can barely relax now, I feel like the Apple Watch will take over my life. The chimes and buzzes won't be across the room anymore, they'll be on my body. Tapping me — the Apple Watch doesn't vibrate, it taps — taunting me. Every text, every FB invite, every Instagram of my friend Cathy's new manicure ... tap, tap, tap.

Sometimes I feel like I'm in a psychological thriller; like social media is a psycho neighbour who keeps knocking on my door to tell me what colour Kim Kardashian's hair is. And though I know this, I can't resist answering

the door, just in case it's something else, something great.

I read an article recently about the fact that every time we check our messages or notifications or play Candy Crush, we get a hit of dopamine.

Dopamine is the same chemical released when a cocaine addict snorts a line or a smoker lights up. Though I'll be jealous of everyone that has one, I don't think I'll get an Apple Watch.

I'm already addicted and the watch sounds like hooking myself up to an intravenous notification drip.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Women can get abortions, but individual women can't

I've never been faced with the abortion choice.

But if I ever have one, I know I'll fear the stigma and shame — not from the minority of pro-lifers in this country, but from within the pro-choice majority.

Abortion is framed as black and white. It's not. It's "thousands of different shades of gray," as a U.S. Vox Media survey released this week points out. Some people are both pro-choice and pro-life, and each draws the line in a different place.

That plays out in Canada, too: In a 2014 poll, 23 per cent of otherwise pro-choice Canadians said they feel we should have some restrictions on the procedure. We're also split on whether abortion should always be paid for, or only in medical emergencies.

Canadians gaze with scorn at the theatrical, divisive abortion politics of the U.S. We agree on women's right to choose, we congratulate ourselves. We applaud our reasonable laws, our legal, paid-for-by-the-government abortions.

But we are hypocrites. When it comes to supporting women who make that choice, we are silent. Women in general can get abortions. Not an individual woman.

There were 82,869 abortions in Canada in 2013. One-third of Canadian women will terminate a pregnancy. And yet I have personally only heard of two.

Of those two, only one was

a friend who told me of her abortion. It was hard for her to share, and it's now a vaulted secret. Our friends are pro-choice — as are 60 per cent of Canadians — but we both still worry about judgment.

There are public campaigns to dispel the shame around mental health, so people need not suffer from isolation, or blame, but we say nothing about abortion.

Everyone has their own take on abortion, if they'd have one, when they might. For some women, it's a painful decision for which they might even shame themselves. These nuanced opinions creep into our health-care system and silence us among each other.

Canadian medical schools are failing to properly educate future doctors about abortion, due to both stigma and fear of offending students, according to journalist Danielle Groen, who's written about the issue.

Access to abortion varies widely across the country, and is notoriously difficult outside major cities — a bias caused in part by fear of stigma and one that undermines our supposed legal right, noted longtime abortion activist Joyce Arthur.

"It's one thing to have a right, and really another thing to implement it," she said.

We've already said it's OK, so why does it still feel wrong?

Because we don't have abortion "solved." We've only sewn up the politics. And until we work harder to diminish the shame, Canadian women will suffer.

Happy face/Sad face

From **matrimonial marketing** to **suffocating welfare laws**, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



Poultry pilgrimage

Two Canadian dads took their sons on a Kentucky Fried road trip of a lifetime. Travelling 3,400 kilometres from Montreal to the Harland Sanders Café and Museum in Kentucky, the families said three of the sons had never tried the crispy birds before and that they had never laughed so much in their lives. Goes to show that treating your fast food as an adventure can be amazing. Putting a ring on it, however ... (read on)



Speak now or forever hold the grease

... Joel Burger and Ashley King are getting married and guess who offered to sponsor their wedding? That's right, the HOME OF THE WHOPPER® contacted the couple about footing their bill and they said yes! We see big things for any hypothenated offspring resulting from this blessed union. Imagine having a multinational there from the start, sponsoring finger paintings, catering birthday parties (mini burgers, duh), paying college tuition. Couldn't be happier for Burger King. Burger-King. Whatever.



Heavy stuff

As if it wasn't sad enough when undying chaos-demon, Lord and Master of Earth and lead singer of GWAR Dave Brockie, a.k.a. Oderus Urungus, overdosed last March, the band is now being sued by Brockie's father. Dad says the other guys stole his son's remains, guitars and other stuff. He claims he asked for the return of all of Urungus's remains, but instead got "a small fraction of his son's ashes which were delivered in a used plastic bag with a Discover credit card logo on it." The matter is tragically before the courts. But at least we'll always have the music.



Help the poor and needy

Some politicians are so petty and shortsighted that they can find no better use of their time than micromanaging the spending habits of the poor. If a new law passes, welfare recipients in Kansas won't be allowed to use their cash at pools, nail salons or movie theatres, and will be barred from withdrawing more than \$25 a day at ATMs. This idea makes no moral or fiscal sense (you could probably get some pretty sweet nail decals for the same price as the fees you'd be paying on daily withdrawals), but when scapegoating the most vulnerable in society is your public-service priority, logic is mere trifle.



PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan



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Cashing in on our lust for love

ANALYSIS

Nicholas ‘The Notebook’ Sparks has yet another sticky sweet tale for us

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse



Novelist Nicholas Sparks is the current king of romance writers. His flowery prose even gives Harlequin a run for their money in the three-hanky tear-jerker department. Who else could write a line like, “Love is like the wind, you can’t see it, but you can feel it,” with a straight face?

He is to romance writing what Buckley’s cough syrup is to a tickly throat. They both get the job done, but leave a sickly sweet aftertaste.

His best-known novel adaptation is *The Notebook*, a cross-generational love story that spent over a year as a New York Times hardcover top seller. Inspired by the story of his wife’s grandparents’ 60-year marriage, the novel became a 2004 movie starring Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams. The tale of love and Alzheimer’s is emotionally manipulative (writer Gary Panton called this passionate weeper “mushier than a mushed-up bowl of mushy peas that’s just



Scott Eastwood and Britt Robertson star in Nicholas Sparks’ latest lovey affair, *The Longest Ride*. CONTRIBUTED

been mushed in an industrial-strength mushifier”) but opening weekend it surfed a wave of tears to the box office Top 5.

Sparks, a former pharmaceutical salesman, writes tales of love and loss, of mighty obstacles overcome and lip-locks galore, which he defines as “dramatic epic love stories” along the lines of “Eric Segal’s *Love Story* or *The Bridges of Madison County* ... But you can even go all the way back. You

had Hemingway write *A Farewell to Arms*, the movies of the ‘40s — *Casablanca*, *From Here to Eternity* — Shakespeare, and that’s the genre I work in.”

He caught some flack for comparing himself to Shakespeare — one writer said, “If Sparks is like Shakespeare, then a house painter is like Picasso” — but the fact remains that his unconventional love stories, his parcels of passion, have made

 **MOVIE RATINGS** by Richard Crouse

The Longest Ride ★★	HOW RATING WORKS ★★★★ SEE IT ★★ UP TO YOU ★ SKIP IT
Danny Collins ★★★	
Cut Bank ★★	

his name synonymous with the romance genre.

This weekend, prepare for another flurry of Sparkisms—tear-stained romantic letters, lines like, “Love requires sac-

rifice but it’s worth it,” and passionate make-out sessions — as *The Longest Ride* hits the big screen.

This time around “two stories separated by time, con-

nected by fate,” get Sparksified as the lives of a young couple, played by Scott “Clint’s son” Eastwood and Britt Robertson and older lovebirds Alan Alda and Oona Chaplin, interlace. “I wish I could tell you it’s all happily ever after,” says Alda’s character, “not everybody gets that.” Expect unexpected poignancy.

Critics haven’t always warmed to Sparks’s stories on film — *Safe Haven* with Julianne Hough as “a young woman’s struggle to love again” has a paltry 12 per cent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes, while *The Best of Me* starring Michelle Monaghan and James Marsden as high school sweethearts reunited after two decades sits at a miserable eight per cent rating.

But audiences can’t seem to get enough of his weepy tales of unrequited love, lost love, mature love and love in a time of trouble.

Ten of his books have already been adapted for the movies, with one more, *The Choice*, scheduled for 2016.

His style of romance has caught on, but don’t call him a romance writer.

“I write dramatic fiction. If you go into a further subgenre, it would be a love story, but it has its roots in the Greek tragedies. This genre evolved through Shakespeare. He did *Romeo and Juliet*. Hemingway did *A Farewell to Arms*. I do this currently today.”

We need to talk.

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When Kristen met Juliette

CLOUDS OF SILS MARIA

Stewart and Binoche talk film roles and easy rapport

Matt Prigge
Metro in New York City

When we spoke last October during the New York Film Festival, Kristen Stewart had not yet become the first American female actor to ever win a Cesar — France's equivalent of the Oscar — for Olivier Assayas' *Clouds of Sils Maria*. But she was still ecstatic about it. In the film she plays Valentine, the harried but cucumber-cool personal assistant of Maria Enders, a Juliette Binoche-like superstar played by Juliette Binoche. That allowed her to mock the film industry and the gossip machine from a safe remove. The two actresses paired together to talk about their rapport, and, in Binoche's case, to whip out one hell of a laugh.

Juliette, your breakthrough, 1985's *Rendez-vous*, was written by Assayas, and you reunited for his 2008 film *Summer Hours*. You instigated this project. What was your original concept?

Juliette Binoche: I wanted him to deal with the feminine. I didn't know exactly what it would be, but I was imagining these characters exchanging roles. I talked about Bergman. I said, "C'mon, you love Bergman! You made a book of interviews (from 2008)!" And I was a little frustrated on *Summer Hours*, as an actress. I thought he was shy and hiding. I said, "I was missing you!"

Kristen Stewart: It's like, "I want to know you!"

JB: "I want to know you," yeah! And he said to me, "Give me two weeks and I'll tell you whether I like it or not." Then he called me and said, "I have the subject." A year and a half later he gave me the script

It's pretty honest about what goes on in the life of a middle-aged actress. What was your reaction to it?

JB: I was shocked! I didn't ex-



Juliette Binoche, left, plays a famous international actress struggling to deal with her next film, alongside her personal assistant, played by Kristen Stewart, in *Clouds of Sils Maria*. CONTRIBUTED

pect it to be that way at all. I was provoking him (big, hearty laugh) and I got slapped back! **Kristen, you were suppos-**

ed to be Jo-Ann, a younger actress ultimately played by Chloe Grace Moretz, but you insisted on taking Valentine instead. Why was that?

KS: That part is fantastic, but it's just not for me. It was something I knew so well that it wasn't interesting to me. I know Valentine so well, but I've never done it before. It'd be more interesting to say I gravitated towards the project because of the statements it made and the commentary that it is. But it was the emotional part that I really loved. And

precarious bulls — it can be sometimes and how we starv-ingly consume people — that was fun. I had to erase the glee from my face while saying those lines. I had to try to not look so excited about it.

Your characters have such a comfortable rapport. How did you develop that?

JB: We took some appointments to help us develop our relationship. (Big, hearty laugh). When you like someone, you like someone. We became close in a natural way.

most people that I've worked with. I'm constantly sitting there in between everything (thinking). She perplexes me a little bit, which is absolutely the right dynamic. We didn't have to fake it.

Is it getting better, or do you have to just go to Europe to get the great roles? Or is that just a cliché?

KS: If you were to get a consensus, then, yeah, absolutely. There are so many conventions in female roles in the States that it almost becomes — I mean, it's so cliché, as you say — it almost becomes stifling. And it's contagious. All of a sudden you think it's not going to be commercial and easily consumable, people are not going to make it. It's either going to be the tiniest, tiniest movie ever, or it's just never going to happen. I read really great scripts all the time that are different and go against convention and say something new. And they can never find legs. They never get made. It's a cliché because it's true.

“I've always gravitated towards American filmmakers who have a bit more fluidity and the balls to explore; and (who) live in something and don't need to control it so much.” Kristen Stewart

there's more irony and more layers steeped in her dialogue if it's coming out of my mouth. It's just the way it is. I've been there, I've been smack-dab in the middle. To directly address the media and talk about what

KS: If we hadn't, the movie would not have been good. Because I am not a liar. If this (connection between us) was not solid and this was not stimulating ... This woman makes me think more than

DIRECTOR'S TAKE OLIVIER ASSAYAS

Filmmaker Olivier Assayas was partly responsible for Juliette Binoche's big break, and she is: In 1985 she starred in *Rendez-vous*, co-written by Assayas, his first screen credit. In *Clouds of Sils Maria*, she plays a very Binoche-y star, who worries that she's finally being replaced by the young.

"It's not about the cruelty of aging. It's about how to deal with it," he says. "It's not about rivalry. It's about a woman who ... has to accept that she's in another place, and that eventually a younger actress will look at her the same way she looked at an older actress when she was young."



Oliver Assayas. GETTY IMAGES

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Director banks on 35mm magic

CUT BANK

Matt Shakman forges digital, gives up salary for debut film



Richard Crouse
Metro | Canada

Cut Bank director Matt Shakman has something in common with 35mm film fanatics Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino. For his movie debut the director insisted on shooting on film rather than digital.

"I'm an analogue kind of guy," he says. "To do this movie, which is about a town that feels trapped in a distant era, it felt right to shoot it on film. We had to find a way to deal with the financial impact of it, but I found a solution to that. I gave up my salary in order to do it."

"I'll only get a chance to make a first movie once and to make it on film feels special. I may never get a chance to do it again."

Set in the hamlet of Cut Bank, Mont., the action begins when auto mechanic Dwayne (Liam Hemsworth) accidentally videotapes the murder of the local postman (Bruce Dern). He reports the crime to the local sheriff (John Malkovich), hoping for reward money, but there are complications in the form of the suspicious father of his girlfriend (Billy Bob Thornton), a postal inspector (Oliver Platt) and a reclusive man (Michael Stuhlbarg) violently obsessed with getting his mail.

The script appeared on Hollywood's 2009 black list of the best unproduced films and has been in Shakman's hands for five years.

In the beginning he simply loved the twisty-turny story.

"Then," he says, "I (became) like a dog chasing a rabbit at the track. You get these tantalizing elements that start to make everything feel more real."

"When someone like John Malkovich signs on it is so helpful for so many reasons. One, the pleasure, personally, of getting to work with one of my heroes. Two, he certainly helps tell other actors that this

“You get these tantalizing elements that start to make everything feel more real.”

Matt Shakman on making Cut Bank

is a party worth coming to and the third thing is just the business reality of having a person in the film who can help you with financing."

Shakman says he knows after the film's theatrical run "a lot of people will see Cut Bank on their iPads," and while he prefers the communal experience of watching movies with an audience, he knows times are changing.

"They'll also watch Breaking Bad (on their tablets), so the line has blurred very much between the two kinds of content. It's all just become stories and where you choose to find them and how you want them delivered."



Crime thriller Cut Bank stars Billy Bob Thornton and Liam Hemsworth. CONTRIBUTED

Now playing


DRAMA & COMEDY

Danny Collins

Director: Dan Fogelman
Starring: Al Pacino, Annette Bening

Al Pacino stars as aging 1970s rocker Danny Collins, who can't give up his hard-living ways. But when his manager (Christopher Plummer) uncovers a 40-year-old undelivered letter written to him by John Lennon, he decides to change course and embarks on a heartfelt journey.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **72%** **Audience:** **76%**


DRAMA

The Longest Ride

Director: George Tillman Jr.
Starring: Scott Eastwood, Brittney Robertson

Based on the bestselling novel by Nicholas Sparks, the film centres on the star-crossed love affair between former champion bull rider Luke and college student Sophia. Spanning generations and two intertwining love stories, it explores the challenges and infinite rewards of enduring love.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **14%** **Audience:** **+90%**


ACTION

Furious 7

Director: James Wan
Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker

Continuing the global exploits in the unstoppable franchise built on speed, Vin Diesel, Paul Walker and Dwayne Johnson lead the returning cast of Fast & Furious 7.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **82%** **Audience:** **89%**

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- ROLLING STONE

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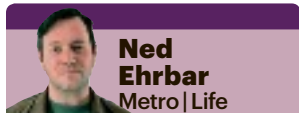


Ryan Gosling's *Lost River* is the Canadian actor's directorial debut. PASCAL LE SEGRETAIR/WIREIMAGE

Gosling's first film inspired by Detroit

DIRECTORIAL DEBUT

Lost River is about surviving in city that's falling apart



Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

Lost River is the debut effort by a new writer and director named Ryan Gosling. Maybe you've heard

of him. He's Canadian or something. We sat down with Gosling to discuss why the story of a young man and his mother (starring Iain De Caestecker and Christina Hendricks) trying to survive in the economic wasteland of Detroit spoke to him so strongly.

What was it about this story that made it right for your directorial debut?

I had written something when I was in my early 20s about child soldiers, and it was because I had gone to Uganda

and Sudan and I had an experience that I wanted to elaborate on. I tried for a while to get that film made and I just couldn't. I just wasn't in a place in my career where I could make that happen. Then, you know, life happened and I was in more films, and then suddenly I went to Detroit and I had a similar feeling where I just felt a real connection to the place and had an experience there that I wanted to share and elaborate on. Sometimes you read a script and you feel like you could contribute by acting, and then sometimes you have an experience where it's, "If I don't write this, no one will."

Aside from Christina Hendricks and your partner, Eva Mendes, you've got a Brit, a Scot, an Irishwoman and an Australian playing Detroit residents. What do you have against American actors?

For the most part, I'd worked with everybody before and I just wanted to work with my friends on this film, and most of them I had seen a side of them that I hadn't gotten to see in their work, and so I wanted to write for that. But then there was this central character of Bones (De Caestecker), which was obviously the most important piece and the hardest to find, but Ian was so much more than what I'd hoped for. He just has a quality of wanting to highlight everyone else

that's in the scene with him. He came (to Detroit) a month before hand and didn't tell anybody, started stripping copper in these buildings, and he walked every block of these neighbourhoods. He basically took Landon as a younger brother. He just brought this authenticity to it but just kept it in his pocket.

What was the process of you for defining the visual language of this film?

I had a year — not a solid year, by any stretch — but over the course of a year I took some trips to Detroit on my own and I was filming. And that really helped me — in one way because I felt like I was making the movie, even if it was just me, but that it had started and the train had left the station and now I had to finish. But it also helped me because now I had images that I knew were the film, not just inspiration for the film. I could show producers, actors, financiers, not "this is what it could be" but "this is what it is."

The drowned towns motif is such a striking visual.

I grew up next to a river where I had found a road leading into it, and that's how I learned that they had sunken a bunch of towns to make this river. That's sort of where that idea came from, but yeah, it's a totally surreal, true thing that happens, and it's very bizarre.

FRANCE

Who will be on the guest list at Cannes this year?

With the Cannes Film Festival set to open in just over a month's time, speculation is swirling over which films — and which top directors and actors — could be getting their moment under the French Riviera sun.

Cannes's organizers jealously guard their selections for the competition lineup and the out-of-competition program until a month before the film fest opens. This year, the movies to be shown at Cannes will be announced on April 16, and the festival will run from May 13 to 24.

Woody Allen is seen as more than likely to be walking the red carpet with his new flick, *Irrational Man*, starring Joaquin Phoenix.

Cate Blanchett might also be along for her movie *Carol*. And fellow Oscar-winner Matthew McConaughey could appear for *The Sea of Trees* the latest film by director Gus Van Sant, which also stars Naomi Watts.

The director of the festival, Thierry Fremaux, said last week "there is no more than a third of the selection definitively decided." He added he and his selection committee "watch the movies right to the end."

Cannes mixes international art-house cinema, Hollywood blockbusters, extravagant parties, industry wheeling and dealing, and eye-catching publicity stunts in a potent cocktail that has made it the pre-eminent global showcase for movies.

So far the only movie confirmed to be screened is *Mad Max: Fury Road*. The dystopian sci-fi movie, the fourth in the high-action *Mad Max* franchise and the first to star British actor Tom Hardy in the title role, will

be shown out of competition on May 14 just before its worldwide release.

Fury Road co-star Charlize Theron is expected to saunter up the red-carpeted steps. She could put on another dress for *The Last Face*, directed by Sean Penn and starring Theron and Javier Bardem.

Harry Potter actress Emma Watson and *Boyhood* star Ethan Hawke might be along if *Regression*, by Spanish director Alejandro Amenabar (who made *The Others*, *The Sea Inside*) is selected.

Italy's flag could flutter over *Mia Madre*, the most recent picture by Nanni Moretti who won Cannes's top prize the *Palme d'Or* in 2001, or maybe *La Giovinezza* by Paolo Sorrentino, whose *Grande Bellezza* (*The Great Beauty*) won a foreign picture Oscar last year.

Asia, as always, is expected to be well represented.

THE SHORT LIST

The Cannes selection committee is screening 1,800 films — from start to end credits — to arrive at the short list for next month's festival

Thailand's Apichatpong Weerasethakul has just completed a romance, *Love in Khon Kaen*, which might screen. Taiwan's

Hou Hsiao-hsien, a competition veteran, has a good chance with martial arts picture *The Assassin*.

Finally, of course, Cannes always has a soft spot for French productions. While directors Jacques Audiard or Arnaud Desplechin might screen their latest films, much attention is being thrown on *The Little Prince*, a big-budget French animation directed by U.S. filmmaker Mark Osborne that adapts the famous novel by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

AFF

+ BACKGROUND

In *Lost River*, Christina Hendricks' character works in a macabre private sex-and-death club.

"It was based on the Grand Guignol and the Hell Cafe and the Death Cafe," says Gosling. "All of these were part of a macabre entertainment scene in Paris in the early 1900s. At the Grand Guignol, they would put on these horror shows, murder theatre where they would kill people on stage. It was fake but very realistic, and it gave birth to horror films. At that time, for whatever reason, there was this real macabre entertainment scene and fascination with death. We tried to root all the fantasy in this film in some form of reality,

you know? So we used that as a big inspiration. But the idea was that in these sorts of places — after a natural disaster or, in this case, an economic disaster — they attract people who have dark fantasies because they can enact them in these places where no one's watching. You can get away with anything in these kinds of environments."



Mad Max: Fury Road, starring Charlize Theron, will be shown in Cannes just before its wide release in May. CONTRIBUTED



Lucy Lawless, left, stars in the second season of Salem. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lucy Lawless has a strange idea of fun

INTERVIEW

The Salem star lets us in on her bizarre guilty pleasure



Ned Ehrbar

As Lucy Lawless is well aware, there are worse ways to spend a day at work than doing interviews promoting your new TV show. “We could be carrying bricks on a hill in Bangladesh,” she offers. But as we meet up in downtown Austin, Texas, to discuss her role on Salem, there is definitely something else she’d rather be doing — at the courthouse just down the street.

“I like to watch jury selections,” she says. “It’s so interesting, you get to learn information about people’s lives that’s so dramatic. And yes, it’s a bit voyeuristic, but you get to see true life, that way and the harsh truth behind it.”

How often do you do this?

Oh, once a week. They don’t always have jury selection, but I do enjoy that. You don’t always know what the case is about, but sometimes you can get the information. I kind of have a scoop of who’s a good person to go to for informa-

tion at each courthouse. See, I’m never bored in any town because I always have my go-to activity.

Where did this come from?

I’ve always been interested. There are a lot of defence attorneys in my extended family and in my immediate, and I’m interested in the law and how it plays out. I’m interested in truth-telling, and I realized that I think I’ve got a good bulls — meter, but you realize I know nothing. Because if you grow up in a home where it’s a level playing field and the world is trustworthy, you don’t need to lie to survive. But people who live in a very unstable environment growing up, where lying may be a matter of survival, they’re so good at it, and criminals are so good at it.

So how long have you been sitting in on jury selections?

I started about four years ago, going to actual courthouses. But I read about the law all the time, about defence cases or prosecution cases. Because human beings, you know? Louisiana has a death penalty case coming up. It was aggravated rape of a minor this week, but you don’t always know what the case is. I’ve got to listen very carefully and read between the lines, figure out what the charge is going to be from the questions they ask the jury.

TELEVISION

Savage-backed sitcom met with protest

Conservative groups are trying to kill in the cradle a prospective ABC sitcom about a family upended when a teenage son comes out as gay because sex columnist and gay rights activist Dan Savage is involved in the production.

The Media Research Center and Family Research Council said their members have sent more than 21,000 postcards and made more than 4,000 telephone calls asking ABC to abandon the

series, tentatively titled The Real O’Neals. ABC is not commenting on the effort, while Savage said it is misdirected.

The show, which features actress Martha Plimpton as the family matriarch, is one of 12 comedy pilots the network is considering. Generally, about half of those pilots — at most — will get the green light.

Savage, author of the Savage Love advice column, said the series evolved out of a meeting he

had with ABC executives where aspects of his childhood that he has written about were discussed.

While elements of the pilot were inspired by his experiences growing up in Chicago — the father is a Chicago police officer — the show “has evolved throughout the development process and it wouldn’t be accurate to describe it as autobiographical,” said Savage, an executive producer of the series.

Savage’s very involvement

angers the conservative groups. In a letter sent to Ben Sherwood, president of the Disney/ABC Television Group, MRC president L. Brent Bozell and Family Research Council President Tony Perkins cited Savage’s “radical hate speech” and “venomous anti-Christian bigotry.”

“They’re choosing him for his signature, which is religious bigotry and personal offensiveness, not because he’s gay,” Bozell said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Hemingway tackles mental illness, addiction in book

MARIEL HEMINGWAY

Tough topics covered by granddaughter of literary icon

Many people remember Mariel Hemingway best from her portrayal of the sweet teenager Tracy in Woody Allen's *Manhattan*, where she delivered the film's uplifting closing line, a reminder that "You have to have a little faith in people."

But Hemingway herself, then only 16, was living a life with much darkness in it; her family was plagued by alcoholism, drug addiction and mental illness. And suicide — including her famous grandfather, Ernest Hemingway, in 1961, and sister Margaux, the former supermodel, in 1996.

Hemingway, now 53, has written two new memoirs, *Out Came the Sun*, and a young-adult version, *Invisible Girl*, in which she frankly recounts her family's struggles. Here are some excerpts from a recent interview.



Mariel Hemingway recounts her famous family's struggles in two new memoirs. DAN HALLMAN/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You write at length about alcoholism, drug addiction, mental illness and suicide in your family. Do you feel all these things are connected?

Yes, especially in my family. Look at my grandfather, this extraordinary man, Ernest Hemingway, the greatest writer of the 20th century. But he was also self-medicating pain with a lot of drinking. Then I look at my oldest sister (Muffet), who

is still alive, who is wonderful, but ... I think her schizophrenia and mental health issues were triggered by drug addiction. My other sister as well, she was a major alcoholic. And you know, it's a chemical. It changes your brain. In my family, it was never one glass of wine. It was a bottle. And it changes people.

You write about how you've had seven people in your family

commit suicide. And you've been involved in suicide prevention efforts. Do we have a lot to learn about suicide?

Suicide is extremely complex. It is not necessarily somebody who suffers long-term mental illness. It can be planned for 20 years, or it can happen out of the blue.... The reason I wrote these books is so that if Mariel Hemingway, who comes from this family that everybody (knows), if SHE talks about her story, maybe I get someone suffering somewhere in silence to find a safe space to tell their story. So that they can start to heal.

Why did you write the young adult book?

Because that's (the age) when I was the most scared. Also when I was the most confused. A lot of kids don't know that there's somebody out there that gets it. You don't know it's not normal. I thought that when parents fought and there was broken glass and blood on the wall, that you cleaned it up because this was your job.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH

Taylor Swift's mom is battling cancer

Taylor Swift revealed to her fans that her mother has cancer.

Swift wrote about the news in a post on her Tumblr on Thursday, which her representative confirmed.

Swift wants to keep the details private, but said her mother wanted fans to know what was going on.

The 25-year-old singer said she asked her mother to see her doctors as a Christmas gift. She said "there were no red flags," but they later learned Andrea Swift had cancer.

Though Swift is the superstar, Andrea has become a fa-



Taylor Swift GETTY IMAGES

avourite among Swift's fans, often earning cheers from audiences at live shows.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COURT

Jon Hamm accused in violent 1990 frat hazing
Court records show Mad Men star Jon Hamm was accused of taking part in a violent 1990 fraternity hazing at the University of Texas.

The Emmy-nominated actor had not previously been publicly linked to a Sigma Nu pledge who had sued after

he said was dragged around by a hammer and had his pants lit on fire. The pledge said Hamm participated "till the very end."

Records show Hamm was charged with hazing and received probation. University records show Hamm left the school the same semester as the hazing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TECH

Lego brings toys to life with new platform

The creators of the Lego video games are building their own rendition of a toys-to-life franchise.

Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment and TT Games unveiled plans Thursday for Lego Dimensions, a game and toy line combining real-world Lego bricks and figures with virtual game worlds depicted on screen. It's similar to the popular Skylanders, Disney Infinity and ambiiio series from Activision-Blizzard Inc., Walt Disney Co. and Nintendo Co.

Lego Dimensions will click together several Lego-ized versions of entertainment properties, including The Lord of the Rings, Back to the Future, DC Comics, The Wizard of Oz.

"I think The Lego Movie helped open the door," said TT Games managing director Jon Burton, who served as a producer on the film. "We've found that everyone from the intellectual properties we've partnered with were hugely open to this idea.

It's lent itself to creating this world where hopefully it's only bounded by the imagination of the kids playing it."

The series' starter pack, which is scheduled for release Sept. 27 for all major consoles at \$99.99, will include the game, a reader and pieces to construct a Lego portal on the device, as well as figures of Batman, the Batmobile, Gandalf and Wyldstyle from The Lego Movie. The trio is set to be voiced respectively by Troy Baker,

Tom Kane and Elizabeth Banks.

The reader, which is divided into three sections and can detect up to seven Lego figures or vehicles at a time, doesn't visually scan the bricks. Instead, the Lego figures and vehicles can be affixed to individually marked discs containing radio frequency identification technology that's transmitted to the reader, just like the Skylanders and Infinity toys.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Arya Stark, hardened by her life on the run, is headed solo toward the city of Braavos. CONTRIBUTED

Catch up on your GoT plot lines

Battling warriors and wrangling dragons on Game of Thrones is easy. Weathering the bitter cold north of The Wall is a snap. What's hard is keeping track of all the storylines and remembering how things were left hanging when last season ended all those months ago. With the return of Thrones for its fifth season on Sunday at 9 p.m. EDT on HBO, here's a reminder of what some of the characters were up to, way back then. And if you're not caught up, spoiler alert:

1 Jon Snow

Was attempting to broker peace with the wildling army of Mance Rayder, self-styled King-Beyond-the-Wall, when Mance's camp was attacked by troops led by One-True-King Stannis Baratheon.

2 Mance Rayder

Was taken prisoner by Stannis, who ordered him to kneel in surrender, something Mance, a stubborn sort, refused to do.

3 Stannis Baratheon

Left the impression, yet again, that

he's not the forgiving type.

4 Tyrion Lannister

Often dismissed for his diminutive stature, but tough as nails, let loose a couple of fatal bolts from his crossbow at his father, Lord Tywin Lannister, who had it coming. After this execution, Tyrion was whisked away by Varys, a eunuch, and the two set sail for freedom.

5 Brienne of Tarth

A towering woman and would-be knight, was determined to fulfil her pledge to save the headstrong girl Arya Stark from the grip of thuggish Sandor Clegane, as she nearly killed him in a brawl. But Arya refused to join her and vanished from sight.

6 Arya Stark

Hardened by her hard young life on the run, took vengeance on her captor, Sandor, by refusing to put him out of his misery with her sword as he lay gravely wounded after his rumble with Brienne. She left him dying in agony as she took off solo for the city of Braavos.

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Michelle Rodriguez, top, and Ludacris in *Furious 7*. ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

So much for diversity: White guys still rule

HOLLYWOOD

Women, ethnic casts viable, but ratios favour status quo

The Fast & Furious series is often cited as an example of how diversity can work in Hollywood. With its multicultural casts and international settings, the franchise has generated more than \$2.4 billion in global earnings. The latest instalment, *Furious 7*, set box-office records last weekend with its \$147-million domestic opening.

"Usually, big studio tent-pole films are all very white-washed," says *Furious 7* director James Wan. "People need to learn from this, because this is the way of the future."

Wan says the *Furious* films play well globally "because they have people from that part of the world in the movies and they're not treated like second-class citizens."

The dearth of diversity in Hollywood was heavy on the entertainment industry's mind during awards season, when the #OscarSoWhite hashtag went viral and host Neil Patrick Harris joked about honouring the "best and whitest — sorry

— brightest" at the Academy Awards.

Yet despite the success of films like *Furious 7* and increased awareness of the industry's white, male status quo, change won't be seen onscreen anytime soon.

True, this year's movies were made before the Oscar outcry. But whether onscreen diversity improves over time as production catches up to new awareness remains to be seen. One thing's for certain, though: Much work lies ahead.

32 films

The Associated Press did a survey of about 170 films scheduled for release this year, and determined that only 32 of them will feature actors of colour in prominent roles.

Studies by researchers at UCLA and USC show vast underrepresentation of women and minorities in every aspect of filmmaking.

"Recognizing a problem and changing it are two very different beasts," said Cathy Schulman, the Oscar-winning producer of *Crash* and president of Women in Film.

Recognizing a problem and changing it are two very different beasts

Cathy Schulman, president of Women in Film



In insular, high-risk, high-profit Hollywood, change has to be insistent and intentional, said Darnell Hunt, director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA.

"It's not going to correct itself naturally," said the sociology professor, co-author of UCLA's annual report on minority representation in the industry. "I suspect we'll have more and more dysfunction and lack of alignment of people in the industry holding onto an approach they've had for generations and ignoring where America is."

His team's ongoing study of the entertainment industry aims to quantify the relationship between diversity and profitability. Their second annual Hollywood diversity report, released in February, shows that while women and minorities are underrepresented across entertainment relative to the U.S. population, movies and TV shows with diverse casts tend to perform well in ratings and at the box office.

"There's a myth of people of colour not being viable internationally when the rest of the world is diverse," Hunt said.

Film and TV studio heads — found by the UCLA study to be overwhelmingly white and male — usually hire people they've worked with before, which reproduces the dismal ethnic and gender ratios. A recent study by USC and the advocacy group Women in Film shows women have represented fewer than five per cent of directors of top films during the past two decades.

People of colour have made incremental progress recently in some areas of the entertainment business, the UCLA study found. Lead roles for non-white actors in film and TV increased by about 1 1/2 per cent in 2013 over the previous year. But even with the success of minority-led TV series such as *The Mindy Project*, *Scandal* and *How to Get Away With Murder*, "non-white showrunners account for less than six per cent of all broadcast scripted fare, the study found."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDUSTRY TREND

Need for Speed 2 has Chinese co-producer

Appetite for 2014's *Need for Speed* meant that Chinese audiences contributed \$66 million of the film's \$203 million take — more than any other territory, including the U.S., and matching the movie's production budget.

The sequel, announced this week, is expected to be shot in China, with a cast and crew featuring Chinese talent.

It's part of a trend that sees U.S. companies pay more and more attention to a global market, specifically a Chinese one, as China's biggest production studios become increasingly important.

Transformers: Age of Extinction signified that sea-change in attitudes towards Chinese co-operation.

Fourth in the Michael Bay film series, it actually had a lower budget than its two immediate predecessors, but outdid all three forerunners in terms of box office domination.

As with *Need for Speed*, China Movie Channel and Jiflix Enterprise came on board



Aaron Paul in *Need for Speed*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to co-produce.

Established stars Li Bingbing and Han Geng joined Mark Wahlberg, Nicola Peltz, and Stanley Tucci on the cast list, while a nationwide talent show drafted in four relative unknowns.

A good portion of filming took place in Hong Kong and on the mainland, ensuring a significant slice of Chinese action — even more for Chinese audiences, who received a localized, alternative cut. AFP



MOVIE NEWS IN BRIEF

Potter actor up for lead in Grand Theft Auto biopic

Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe could be appearing on our screens next in the movie *Grand Theft Auto*.

The British actor is in negotiations for the starring role in the biopic of the notorious video game's creator, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*.

The film recounts the true story of Sam Houser of Rockstar Games and a U.S. lawyer who wanted to ban video-game violence. It is a BBC Films project and will be directed by Owen Harris. AFP

Sony eyes new Millennium novel for screen adaptation

Lisbeth Salander, the famous girl with the dragon tattoo, could be set to return to screens in a new Sony deal.

The literary character and heroine of late author Stieg Larsson's best-selling *Millennium* trilogy will once again be on the bookshelves with the new book *The Girl in the Spider's Web*.

Now Sony, which secured the rights to adapt the original trilogy, is said to be looking into adapting the fourth book as well, claims the *Hollywood Reporter*. AFP

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Everything noodle under the sun

JAPAN

Ramen soup so revered entire museums are devoted to it

There are two kinds of ramen in this world. There's the packaged staple of dorm-room cuisine, one of the most processed, industrialized foods ever invented. And then there's the trendy, artisanal, hand-made soup that fans line up for hours to try.

But in Japan, ramen isn't just for eating: There are entire museums devoted to it. Yokohama, a short train ride from Tokyo, has one museum for instant ramen and another for handmade ramen, and both offer samples to taste or take home.

At the Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum (the extra u gives the word a retro feel), you'll find nine shops showcasing different styles of ramen. The English brochure helpfully describes the soup at each, noting whether the noodles are straight, curly or wrinkled, and how thick they are using a five-point scale. The richness of the broth is also rated on a five-point scale.

At each shop, you order and pay for your ramen in an old-fashioned way, via a ticket vending machine in front with photos on the buttons. Some varieties are offered in small portions so you can try more than one type, although for some visitors, one small



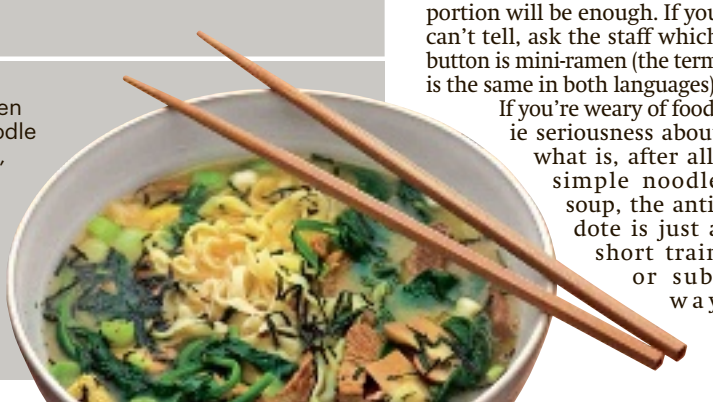
Instant ramen soup packages on display at the Cup Noodle Museum in Yokohama, Japan. The museum honours the inventor of instant ramen. LINDA LOMBARDI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ IF YOU GO

Ramen museums

Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum and Cup Noodle Museum in Yokohama, are about 45 minutes by train from Tokyo.

Websites that have directions in English: raumen.co.jp/english/ and cupnoodles-museum.jp/english/



portion will be enough. If you can't tell, ask the staff which button is mini-ramen (the term is the same in both languages).

If you're weary of foodie seriousness about what is, after all, simple noodle soup, the antidote is just a short train or subway



An exhibit at Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum, a food theme park devoted to ramen noodles, depicting storefronts in a re-created 1958 shopping district. LINDA LOMBARDI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ride away: Yokohama also has a branch of the Cup Noodle Museum.

Where Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum is a food theme park for adults, Cup Noodle Museum is designed for kids. The small print on its brochure notes that it's formally named the Momofuku Ando Instant Ramen Museum after the inventor of instant ramen. Run by an educational foundation that Ando started, the fun here is designed to support some high-minded goals with exhibits about creativity and invention.

Exhibits include a reproduction of the modest shack where Ando invented Chicken Ramen, a display of the astonishing number of varieties of instant ramen that the Nissan Food Products company has produced since then, and a food

court called Noodles Bazaar. And there's a play area where kids can experience the Cup Noodle manufacturing process from the point of view of the noodle.

The main attraction here, though, is the make-your-own section. For a separate fee for a timed ticket, kids (or adults) can make their own personal Cup Noodle, decorating the cup, then putting in the noodles and choosing the soup and toppings. Watch the lid get sealed and the whole cup shrink-wrapped, then your creation is enclosed in a cool protective package that you pump air into to cushion it on the trip home. A warning: Cup Noodle Museum, educational as it is, is extremely popular with school groups and is packed with them some weekdays.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVEL TIPS

Your holiday doesn't have to break the bank to be fun and memorable



ON THE MOVE

Loren Christie

A cheap week at an all-inclusive is the go-to vacation for many of us, but a recent survey from TD Bank showed that 79 per cent of Canadians are interested in doing more with their holiday time than staying in a resort.

While the cost of a more experiential holiday is perceived as prohibitive, it doesn't have to be.

Pick your time wisely

Avoid travelling in July and early August. If there are discounts to be had, you will usually find them in the first half of June and in late August through September. Research your destination and avoid being there during citywide conventions or big-name events, like this summer's Pan Am Games in Toronto, when the high demand inflates prices.

Do the free stuff

Hit festivals, markets and

parks. Museums and art galleries usually offer free admission one day of the week. Concert halls tend to offer free or reduced-fee performances on mid-week afternoons. Historic sites are often free or charge nominal entry.

Travel from alternative airports

Secondary airports cost less to fly in and out of than major international airports. If you're heading to the United States, consider driving cross-border

and catching your flight at an American airport. In Vancouver? Head to Bel-lingham, Wash. If you're in Toronto, fly out of Buffalo or Syracuse, N.Y.

Embrace alternative accommodations

Instead of hotels, stay at a bed and breakfast, book private accommodation online through websites like Airbnb or couchsurfing.com, or stay in a hostel.

Spend and save wisely

Create a high-interest vacation savings account and keep it separate from your day to day accounts. Saving \$25 a week can generate \$1,300 in a year toward a holiday fund. Pick a credit card that offers travel benefits. Banks are extremely competitive and have added many benefits for their cardholders in order to attract and keep business.

You don't have to blow all of your cash to have a great vacation. ISTOCK



TRAVEL NOTES FROM FINDING THE LOWEST AIRFARES TO TIPS FOR WEST HOLLYWOOD
New: All-natural travel kits

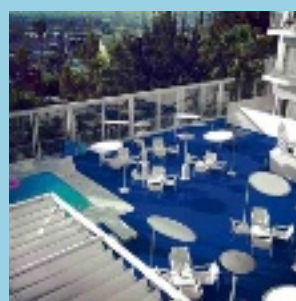
The Canadian-made Consonant natural skin-care line has launched a couple of new travel kits full of miniatures of some of their top products. The company uses organic



botanical ingredients, affirming that what goes on your body also goes in your body. Includes The Perfect Sunscreen, one of the smoothest, most non-greasy, mineral-based sunscreens out there. Pictured set, \$225. Visit ConsonantSkincare.com.

Bucket List: West Hollywood

While L.A. can be overwhelming, choosing West Hollywood as your home base will make it manageable. There's a lot to do: Check out the up-and-coming comedians at the Comedy Store on Sunset Strip or prop up a corner of the bar at the Chateau Marmont. Pop into the Standard Hotel (pictured) for a dip in



the pool and some lunch or play Spot the Celebrity at the Mondrian Hotel patio bar.

Tip: Find the lowest airfares

It's sometimes not where you search for cheap flights, but when. The moment you see an airline sale, wait until the next afternoon to hunt for a



fare, because all the airline's competitors will be

trying to match the previous day's sale price. The sweet spot for buying domestic tickets is 55 days in advance. Best day to fly? Tuesday, because there is less demand for seats and the prices are lower. DOUG WALLACE

Skydive without leaving Earth

iFLY

Experience weightlessness at iFly Toronto wind tunnel

There is a place just outside Toronto where humans can fly.

And flying makes a nice birthday gift, especially for a 12-year-old playing hooky from school.

Suzanne Lyon took her son, Jack, out of school last week to skydive indoors at iFly Toronto in Oakville, Ont.

Jack falls into the vertical wind tunnel where air rushes from below up to 250 km/h, or "a couple hurricanes" worth of wind.

Then he floats for a minute or two, like a skydiver would do after jumping from a plane. The experience is similar to free falling without the crippling fear that can come



**Amazing.
Extraordinary.
Awesome.**

12-year-old Jack

with hurtling toward Earth at breakneck speeds.

He dips, dives and sometimes crashes into the wall of the cylindrical chamber with instructor Adrian Uracz standing nearby, sometimes pulling him back and helping him.

He looks a little like a bird learning to fly.

Jack says it was "amazing" and "extraordinary" and "awesome."

But the actual experience is difficult to describe.

"I don't know what to say," says the boy of few words. But he smiles a lot.

Uracz is more verbal. "It's such a different feeling from what you would have in your everyday life."

Later the instructor shows the rookies how to really fly in the chamber, twisting, turning, flipping and floating at will, as if he lives in a world without gravity. Flyers can learn these tricks over time through iFly's academy with coaches like Uracz.

The facility opened last May and there are 23 others like it around the world, but a wind tunnel in Montreal is the only other one in Canada.

Four giant fans at the top of the building powered by 350-horsepower engines act



Jeff Finkler, left, is guided by an instructor while trying indoor skydiving at iFly Toronto.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ IF YOU GO

What you need to know

- iFly Toronto is open daily. Flights begin at \$72.
- There are risks involved and pregnant women and those who have dislocated their shoulders previously shouldn't participate.
- Children aged four and up can fly but must be accompanied by an adult.
- Find out more at: ifly-toronto.com

like a vacuum and suck air up, before sending it back down nearby vents to recirculate. The flyer floats in the middle of this vacuum.

Both Jack and his mother have come before.

Her husband surprised Suzanne Lyon one date night with a trip to iFly — she thought they were going mini-golfing. They returned to let Jack fly and expect they'll be back many times in the future.

Maybe he'll never be able to put the experience into words, but if he can, it will surely involve a lot of superlatives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DEALS OF THE WEEK

Air, Hotel & Transfers (via Toronto)

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ARUBA

Occidental Grand Aruba ★★★★★

All-Inclusive • Deluxe rm.

May 23 & 30 • 1 wk.

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Add taxes & other fees: \$380

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Senators centre Mika Zibanejad collides with Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist on Thursday night at Madison Square Garden. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Momentum in Manhattan

NHL

Hammond stands tall as Sens move into wild-card spot

Clarke MacArthur and Kyle Turris scored in a 1:04 span late in the second period and the Ottawa Senators' continued their dazzling playoff push behind goaltender Andrew Hammond with a 3-0 victory over the New York Rangers on Thursday night.

Hammond had 26 saves in collecting his third shutout as the Senators improved to 22-4-4 since Feb. 10, giving them 97 points in the wild five-team race for the final four playoff spots in the Eastern Conference.

Hammond has been the difference for Ottawa. The 27-year-old is 19-1-2 since taking over as the starting goaltender on Feb. 8, and this win over the Presidents' Cup winners avenged his only regulation loss. Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored into an empty net with 1:39 to play.

The Rangers tested Hammond, particularly in the third period

AT MSG On Thursday



but The Hamburglar stood tall. Henrik Lundqvist made 24 saves in seeing his four-game winning streak and the Rangers' five-game run stopped.

The loss in their regular-season home finale prevented the Rangers (52-21-7) from breaking their franchise record for wins (52) and points (112), both set in 1993-94, the last time they won the Stanley Cup. New York will close its season at Washington on Saturday.

The Senators took the lead in the final three minutes of the second period, less than a minute after Hammond slid across the crease to make a pad stop on Kevin Hayes with the net wide open. All Hayes had to do was lift the puck and he slid it into the goaltender.

MacArthur put the Senators ahead when he ripped a Mark Stone pass from behind the net past Lundqvist from low in the left circle. It was his 16th goal of the season and third in the last six games.

Turris increased the margin 64 seconds later with a deflection of MacArthur's shot. The puck bounced on the ice after it was redirected and Lundqvist made

+ MORE SCORES

Canadiens 4, Red Wings 3

Lars Eller scored 1:21 into overtime to lift Montreal to a victory over Detroit giving Carey Price a team record 43rd win of the season.

Detroit qualified for the playoffs by earning a point in the overtime loss.

Panthers 4, Bruins 2

Roberto Luongo earned his 401st career win and Jaromir Jagr got his 1,800th career point, helping the Florida Panthers beat Boston, damaging the Bruins' playoff hopes.

The Bruins have lost two straight after winning their previous five games. They trail Ottawa by two points and Pittsburgh by one for the eighth and final spot in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

a snapping glove move to get a piece of it. However, it fell out of his glove, went over his shoulder and dropped into the net.

New York made its push in the opening 10 minutes of the third period, sending at least a half-dozen good scoring chances at Hammond.

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Spieth in familiar spot at the top

MASTERS

21-year-old has three-stroke lead after the first round

Jordan Spieth was already one of the hottest players on the PGA Tour.

He showed no signs of letting up at the Masters.

There are still three rounds to go, but the 21-year-old Spieth looks very much like the one to beat after opening with an 8-under 64 and making a serious run at the major championship



Arnold Palmer, left, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player got things started Thursday as the honorary starters.

TIMOTHY A. CLARY/
AFP/GETTY IMAGES

+ CANCON

In Canadian results, amateur Corey Connors of Listowel, Ont., was 8 over while 2003 Masters champion Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., was 10 over.

scoring record Thursday.

If not for a blunder at the par-5 15th, where Spieth's tee shot left him perfectly positioned for no worse than a birdie but he wound up making bogey, he very well could have been the first player to shoot 62 at one of golf's biggest events.

As it was, Spieth came up just short of the record, which is 63, but can't complain about a three-

shot lead heading to Friday.

Ernie Els, Justin Rose, Jason Day and Charley Hoffman all shot 67. Sergio Garcia and Russell Henley were another stroke back with 68s.

"To make nine birdies out there, that's a dreamy round for me," Spieth said. "It was a lot of fun."

None of this should be a surprise. Not the way he was playing leading up to Augusta, having won, finished second, and lost in a playoff in his three previous tournaments. Not the way he played a year ago in his Masters debut, leading on Sunday before fading down the stretch to finish in a tie for second behind Bubba Watson.

Maybe it was the experience last time that kept from getting too worked up about his brilliant start. There's an endless list of players who led a major after the opening round and were long gone by Sunday.

But it would be a huge surprise if Spieth fades away.

"I was leading last year at one point by a couple of shots on Sunday," he recalled. "It didn't go my way. I know how many things can happen in a major



Jordan Spieth receives a loud ovation upon scoring a birdie to end his first round of the Masters on Thursday in Augusta, Ga.

ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

championship. I'll try to learn from last year and stay patient these next three rounds."

Meanwhile, Tiger Woods dis-

played improvement in his return to competitive golf. He's still got a lot of work to do, however, before he's ready to

compete for his 15th major championship.

Woods finished with a 1-over 73. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Abel first after semis at Canada Cup diving event

Jennifer Abel of Laval, Que., produced a consistent semifinal performance Thursday to lead the women's three-metre event at the Canada Cup FINA Diving Grand Prix.

Abel totalled 349.85 points. Chunting Wu of China was her closest pursuer at 315.80.

Lin Qu of China was the top diver in the other semi at 315.25. The top three from each of the two semis advance to the final on Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tigers set AL shutout record to start season

Shane Greene and the Detroit Tigers set the modern AL record for the longest shutout streak to start a season, extending their string to 24 innings while beating the Minnesota Twins 7-1 on a rainy Thursday.

Minnesota (0-3) scored its lone run in the seventh.

Detroit broke the AL mark of 22 innings set by the 1947 Chicago White Sox, STATS said.

Greene (1-0) gave up four hits in eight innings and struck out five. The run was unearned.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COURT

Photographer banned from Hernandez trial

A photographer for a Boston TV station was banned from the murder trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez on Thursday after he acknowledged following jurors to their parking spots, which the judge said was prohibited.

On the third day of deliberations, Superior Court Judge Susan Garsh banned Robert Cusanelli of WHDH-TV from the courthouse.

"He cannot come into this building or be driving a WHDH vehicle for the purpose of doing reporting work on this case," Garsh said from the bench after Cusanelli testified under oath.

Two jurors informed the court Thursday morning that they saw someone watching them in a Ford Explorer. One took a picture of its licence plate.

Cusanelli was questioned in court by a lawyer for the station and acknowledged that



Aaron Hernandez, right, with defence attorney Charles Rankin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

he followed the jurors, saying he made the decision to do so on his own to find out where jurors were parking. He said he didn't talk to the jurors, didn't take their picture or write down their licence plate numbers and at the time thought he wasn't doing anything wrong.

"I see now that it was a mistake," he said.

Hernandez is charged with the June 2013 shooting death of Odin Lloyd, who was dating his fiancée's sister. He was found shot six times in an industrial park less than a mile from Hernandez's home.

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16

Jurors had deliberated for nearly 16 hours over three days as of Thursday afternoon.

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RECIPE Hoisin Chicken with Mushrooms and Bell Peppers

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Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com

Twitter: @rosereisman



Ready in

Prep time: 15

Cook time: 35

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F. Lightly coat a 9- x 13-inch casserole dish with vegetable spray.

2. Dust the chicken with the flour. In a large skillet lightly coated with cooking spray, add 2 tsp of the vegetable oil and set over medium heat. Add the chicken and sauté for about 8 minutes or until browned on all sides. Place in the casserole dish.

3. Wipe and respray the skillet, add the remaining 2 tsp of vegetable oil. Add the onion and sauté for 5 minutes. Add the mushrooms and sauté for 8 minutes or until the mushrooms are no longer wet. Add the bell pepper and sauté for 4 minutes.

4. Whisk together the soy sauce, hoisin sauce, water, garlic, ginger, sesame oil and rice vinegar in a small bowl. Add to the vegetables and cook for 1 minute. Pour over the chicken and bake for 10 to 15 minutes, or until the chicken is done. Garnish with sesame seeds and cilantro if using. Serve over rice or noodles.



Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lb skinless boneless chicken thighs (about 6 thighs)
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups sliced onion
- 4 cups sliced button mushrooms
- 1 1/3 cups sliced yellow or red bell pepper
- 1 1/2 tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 1/2 tbsp hoisin sauce
- 1 tbsp water
- 2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 2 tsp finely chopped ginger
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- 2 tsp rice vinegar
- 1 tsp toasted sesame seeds
- 3 tbsp chopped cilantro (optional)

Nutrition per serving

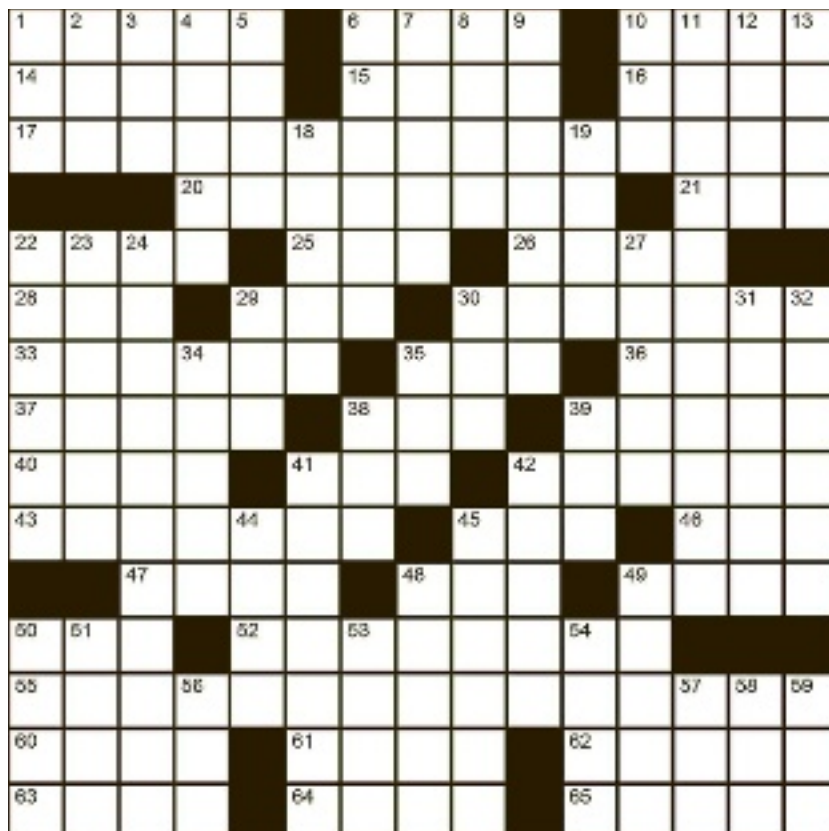
- Calories 264
- Protein 23 g
- Carbohydrates 10 g
- Fibre 1.2 g
- Total fat 14.6 g
- Saturated fat 3.0 g
- Cholesterol 74 mg
- Sodium 270 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ANSWERS ONLINE
metronews.ca



49. ___ the kill
50. Hearer
52. Cameron ___ (Canadian actor/TV host)
55. Subject of "Lord of War" (2005) starring Nicolas Cage: 3 wds.
60. Stare, stunned-style

61.Q. "Is '___' way to abbreviate Dublin's land?" A. "Indeed."
62. Serf of Sparta
63. US IDs
64. Actress Barbara
65. Acadian singer Ms. Butler

DOWN

1. Pre-A.D. indicator
2. Sweetie
3. The Altar constellation
4. Clean the fruit
5. Attire for Augustus
6. Appraises
7. Brick wall plants
8. Memphis, ___

9. Water-related Titan
10. Poetic preposition
11. Sony gaming system
12. Laos' locale
13. Leadership position
18. "My word!"
19. Salmon sort

22. Punk rocker hairstyle
23. Closed
24. Host of CBC Radio 2 program The Signal (Trivia! She is a Much-Music alum and has a cameo in Corey Hart's "Sunglasses at Night" video): 2 wds.
27. Straight-billed marsh bird
29. Fellows
30. Room cooler
31. Puzzling problem
32. Perfumed pouch
34. ___ Tracy, Quebec
35. Milliner's creation
38. Liveliness
39. Mouse muncher
41. Canadian musician Ms. MacMaster
42. Chasm
44. 1978 movie for Canadian actress Genevieve Bujold
45. American retailer, ___ Marcus
48. Two-plus-one's sum
49. Chris de Burgh's "The Lady ___"
50. Shelled things
51. Woeful word
53. Alimention Couche-___ Inc. (Canadian convenience store company)
54. Will- '___-wisp
56. Library fare, briefly
57. Ms. Landry
58. Polka's pal
59. Ordinal suffix

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Someone in a position of authority can and will help you out over the next 24 hours, if you ask them to. Not even an Aries can do it all by themselves.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you have a good idea today you must let others know about it, especially those who can support you and guide you. Sharing what you know is always good business.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Family matters are under excellent stars at the moment, so if you need to get back on good terms with a loved one now is the time to kiss and make up.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will have to deal with a difficult person today but are advised not to do anything that could turn them against you. According to the planets you will need this person's assistance very soon.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will discover something about a friend or work colleague today that answers a lot of questions. What you discover might be amusing but you are advised to keep it to yourself.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to make your peace with someone you have fallen out with in recent weeks. The planets suggest that if you make the effort you won't be disappointed.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Open up and reveal your true feelings today. If you are not happy with something, or someone, then say so. Don't make it hard for others to read your mood.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Someone older and wiser will give you some valuable advice today and if you are smart you will take it. You may be doing well but you could be doing even better.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Others may say you are being too careful, and maybe you are, but don't change your ways to please them. Looked at from another perspective, they're taking too many chances.

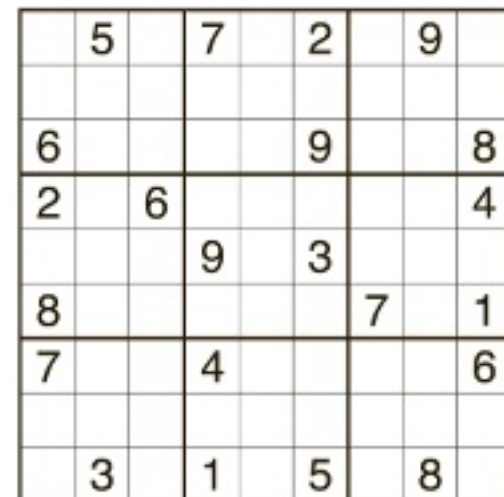
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may want to help someone in need but some people prefer to suffer in silence than admit they need assistance. Respect their wishes.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be sad that something, or someone, is going out of your life but don't shed too many tears. The good news is that something, or someone, even better will come along to fill it.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Your viewpoint on an important issue will change dramatically over the next 48 hours — you may even end up at the opposite end of the opinion spectrum to where you are now.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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